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Tuesday, November 13, 1973
Kartika 22, 1895 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(Ninth Session)

(Vol. XXXII contains Nos. 1 to 10)

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LOK SABHA

Tuesday, November 13, 1973/Kartika 22, 1895 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Gangetic Erosion in Murshidabad District of West Bengal

*21. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is aware that serious damage and heavy losses are being caused every year by Gangetic erosion in Dhulian, Jangipur and Aurangabad of Murshidabad District of West Bengal;

(b) if so, whether any comprehensive plan or scheme was suggested by the State or Centre to arrive at a permanent solution of the problem; and

(c) if so, the nature thereof?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) to (c). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The Government of West Bengal have reported that the problem of erosion exists in a length of 51 km between Lalgola and Nainsukh on the right bank of the Ganga downstream of Farakka Barrage in Murshidabad District. The erosion has been occurring in varying degrees at different places in different years causing damage in the vicinity of important towns like Dhulian, Aurangabad, Biswanathpur etc.

(b) and (c). The State Government had prepared a scheme for providing protection against erosion on the right bank of the river Ganga downstream of Farakka Barrage at an estimated cost or Rs. 63 crores, which included the construction of stone spurs 90 metres long at 800 metres intervals with three submersible spurs in between. The scheme, which was received in March, 1973, was broadly examined in the Central Water and Power Commission. It was observed that the scheme involving a large outlay was not based on detailed investigations and model studies. Therefore, it was suggested to the State Government to prepare a comprehensive scheme after carrying out detailed surveys and model studies, and in the meantime immediate works of an emergent nature in the most vulnerable reaches might be carried out before the floods of 1973.

The emergent works to be done were construction of 31 new submersible spurs and remodelling of 25 existing spurs. The State Government have recently reported that the emergent works have almost been completed and that these have shown good results. The total cost of these works is estimated at Rs. 160 lakhs.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSHI: In the statement it is said that the problem was considered by the Government and a plan at an estimated cost of Rs. 63 crores had been

submitted to the Ministry and since it was felt that the plan was not comprehensive the State Government were to submit another plan. Gangetic erosion is creating a lot of damage every year in those areas, particularly because the Farakka barrage had been constructed. Does the Minister consider it a national problem because of Farakka barrage and if so, why not the Central Government take up on its own this major work without putting it on the shoulder of the State Government?

SHRI K. C. PANT: First of all this belief or assumption that erosion is all due to Farakka barrrage is not borne out by the opinion of the experts. They feel that this erosion was going on before the Farakka barrage was set up and it has little to do with the Farakka barrage as such. I do not think the two questions can be related in that way. As my friend knows, the scheme submitted by the State Government was not complete in all details; several things had to be worked out. Therefore this was sent back to the State Government and they are collecting the necessary data and details. In the meantime certain emergent steps were suggested and they were by and large taken. The hon. Member will be glad to know that this year there has not been much damage and the taking up of these emergent measures had helped in the current year.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI: The statement says that erosion has been occurring in varying degrees at different places in different years causing damage in the vicinity of important towns like Dhulian. The last para of the statement refers to the emergent works and it says that they met with some success in vulnerable points and the total cost is estimated to be Rs. 160 lakhs. Every year there is damage and they have to take some preventive measures spending Rs. 160 lakhs per year. Damages occur to varying degrees in various places but they are occurring every year. Since the rivers are mostly controlled by the Central Water and Power Commission, apart from the Farakka barrage since it is a question of Gangetic erosion, why does not the ministry consider that it is the task of the Central Government to go into the details and formulate schemes, without shifting it to the shoulders of the State Government?

SHRI K. C. PANT: Ganga is a big river and it has caused erosion not only in West Bengal but also in UP and Bihar. There are other rivers in the country also which cause erosion. The general policy is that expenditure on measures which are required to correct the situation are to be borne by the State Governments.

SHRI MUHAMMED KHUDA BAKHSH: I should like to know whether at any stage of the proceedings the Central Government was associated with the exercise of formulating comprehensive schemes, model studies, etc., and if not, why not?

SHRI K. C. PANT: There was a meeting in Delhi in the Ministry of Irrigation and Power of technical officers including the Chief Engineer, West Bengal in April 1973. It was at this meeting that the immediate steps that were required to be taken were decided upon. There were discussions also with regard to the details required for the larger scheme which had been submitted earlier by the State Government earlier.

SHRI MUHAMMED KHUDA BUKHSH: The last para of the statement says that emergent works have shown good results. Is anything of a permanent nature being evolved or undertaken by the Central Government?

SHRI K. C. PANT: The measures that have been taken are permanent measures. Spurs are being constructed and some spurs earlier constructed are being strengthened. These are permanent measures. They were taken as part of the immediate steps that were necessary. The intention was that before the mansoon came, something should be done immediately.

SHRI MUHAMMED KHUDA BUKHSH: These works are being done by the West Bengal Government?

SHRI K. C. PANT: Yes; they are being done by the West Bengal Government.

SHRI S. C. SAMANTA: The statement says that the State Government had prepared a scheme for providing protection against erosion in the right bank of the canal. I would like to know whether this scheme was referred to the Central Research Station, Kadakvasla or only the CWPC looked into it.

SHRI K. C. PANT: The scheme was examined in the Ministry of Irrigation and Power. This is the normal procedure adopted in the case of such schemes.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY: In view of the statement of the hon. Minister that river erosion is taking place not only in West Bengal but also in other States, I would like to know whether it is not a fact that it is better to link Brahmaputra and Ganga in order to minimise the floods and also the flood erosion. If so, at what stage is the scheme of the Government of India for linking Brahmaputra with Ganga?

SHRI K. C. PANT: It does not really arise out of this.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY: It was suggested by the experts to minimise erosion.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a suggestion for action which I hope the Minister will consider.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SINHA: May I know whether it is a fact that the Government of Bihar wrote to the Union Ministry of Irrigation and Power that because of Farraka erosion was taking place in the districts of Monghyr and Bhagwalpur?

MR. SPEAKER: This is not relevant to the main question.

Drilling of Oil by O & NGC in the Arabian Sea

+

*22. SHRI ARVIND M. PATEL:

SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission commenced drilling in the Arabian Sea recently;

(b) if so, the results thereof; and

(c) the amount spent so far by Government on this projects?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI D. K. BOROOAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Drilling has progressed to the depth of about 1,600 metres so far, against the projected depth of 4,500 metres. Traces of Gas have been found in the well at the depth of 1,600 metres.

(c) Total revenue expenditure on the whole project (inclusive of surveys, done on a contract basis) upto 30th September 1973 is Rs. 495.85 lakhs.

श्री अरविन्द एम पटेल : इसकी एक्चुअल लोकेशन कहां हैं और तेल के कोई आसार दिखाई दे रहे हैं या नहीं ? यह किस के साथ मिल कर किया जा रहा है ?

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: This is in the Tarapore area of the Bombay high, just about 120 km from Bombay. Out of the total projected drilling of 4,500 km they have gone up to only 1,600 km. The drilling started on the 11th of October. They have now passed to the seam which is a non-porous segment. There is another segment which is porous where both gas and oil can be deposited. So far they have only got traces of gas. This is not done in collaboration with anybody. It is done by the O&NGC. They are engaging the Offshore Drilling Company only as contractors. There are about 17 foreign experts. There are also our own engineers and workers who are working along with them.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: If it succeeds, buggies and bullock carts would be eliminated.

श्री वीरेन्द्र सिंह राव : मंत्री जी ने हमारा एक संशय तो दूर कर दिया है। लेकिन एक सवाल मैं पूछना चाहता हूं। देश में भारी दिक्कत पैट्रोल की वजह से पैदा हो रही है : इसको देखते हुये क्या इस काम को स्टेप अप करने के लिए कोई खास कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं ? क्या पांचवे प्लान में और रकम मंजूर इस काम के लिए देश को आत्मनिर्भर बनाने के लिये की जा रही है ? क्या कोशिशें इस दिशा में हो रही हैं ।

श्री देवकान्त बरुआ : जो कोशिश हो रही है उस दिशा में पहला कदम हमने आफ शोर ड्रिलिंग के लिए उठाया है। यह शुरूआत हो गई है। मेरा ख्याल है यह कदम जारी रहेगा---(इंटरप्शन) कभी अपने पैर पर चलेंगे और कभी बैल के पैर पर चलेंगे । आत्मनिर्भता के लिए इस मूल्क को खाली आफ शोर ड्रिलिंग पर ही निर्भर नहीं करना होगा, इसके लिए आन शोर ड्रिलिंग भी करना पड़ेगा । बाहर जो हम जा रहे हैं वहां भी रहना पड़ेगा : तेल का जो मामला है इसमें कोशिश भी चाहिये लेकिन किस्मत भी चाहिये ।

श्री वीरेन्द्र सिंह राव : मैं जानना...

अध्यक्ष महोदय । आप दूसरा नहीं कर सकते हैं ।

श्री वीरेन्द्र सिंह राव : आपकी मर्जी पर है ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मेरी मर्जी नहीं है ।

श्री वीरेन्द्र सिंह राव : प्रोसीजर ऐसा है कि दूसरा सवाल कर सकता हूं । मैंने एक ही किया है ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : किसी तरह से उन्होंने कर लिया है खुदा बख्श जी ने यह कह कर कि वही पूरागा कर रहा हू । फिर कभी आप भी ऐसा ही कर लेना ।

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: In view of the fact that the off-shore drilling in the Bombay high has been proved successful, may I know whether the Government would take up more drilling on the Arabian coast? There were proposals to the effect that the Government would take up drilling on the Kerala coast. I would like to know whether this will be taken up on a priority basis in view of the fact that drilling has been proved successful.

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: It is too early to say that drilling has been proved successful. Only the first well we are drilling. As I said, we have to go 4500 ft. deep. We have entered the area of porosity. As to whether oil and gas will be found, it is too early to say anything about it. It will take some time before any decision can be taken about that.

So far as expansion of off-shore drilling in other areas of the country is concerned, 13 areas have been taken up and most of them have now been opened up for drilling in collaboration with other countries. There have been offers from different countries for collaboration in off-shore drilling in those areas.

About Kerala coast, that area is also, as is called in geological terms, a prospective area.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI: The hon. Minister just now said that many countries have shown their interest in offering their collaboration for off-shore drilling. Considering the fact that oil cartels are creating havoc in the oil market of the world, may I know the Government's reaction to the proposed collaboration and whether the Government feels that the collaboration will be in the interest of the country, not only in the present interest but also in the future interest of the country.

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: No country has been able to develop off-shore drilling till now unless there is a collaboration with different international companies. "The system that we are discussing with them is a system of general contractors. They will work for us either according to share in oil or by payment. All this is being discussed and the details are being considered. So, it will be perhaps not proper to divulge anything just at this stage. So far as the other question which the hon. Member has raised is concerned, whether it is in the interest of the country, it is entirely in the interest of the country that our own source of oil should be substantially augmented.

श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी : बम्बई के पास तेल की खोज का काम करने के लिये जापान से जो फ्लोटिंग प्लेटफार्म मंगाया गया था, उस में दोष पाया गया और उसको वापस कर दिया गया । डिलिव्री समय पर न किये जाने के कारण बड़ी मात्रा में डेमेजिज दिये गये हैं । मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या अब उस की डिलिव्री कर दी गई है । यदि हां, तो क्या वहां पर काम चालू कर दिया गया है ।

श्री देवकान्त बरुआ। जापान से मित्सुबिशी कम्पनी का बनाया हुआ जो प्लेटफार्म मंगाया गया, पहले उस की डिलिव्री 30-9-1972 को होनी थी । जब उसका ट्रायल हो रहा था, तो देखा गया कि इलैक्ट्रिक इनस्टालेशन में--पूरे शिप में नहीं--कुछ दोष है । इस लिए उस की रिपेयर कर के देना पड़ा । अब उस दोष को शुद्ध कर लिया गया है । अब वही प्लेटफार्म बम्बई हाई में तारापुर से ड्रिलिंग कर रहा है । यह काम 19 सितम्बर से हो रहा है। इससे पहले जो देर हो गई थी, उसके लिये हमें 182 मिलियन येन, लगभग 53 लाख रुपये, डेमेजिज के रूप में दिये गये ।

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: May I know from the hon. Minister by what time the projected drilling will be completed and what will be the toal cost involved in completing this projected drilling programme? Further, may I know which countries do these 17 experts whom he mentioned the collaborators from foreign countries—represent?

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: From 19th October to yesterday, they have drilled about 1,600 metres. I am not that good in arithmetic; the hon. Member can do the exercise himself. My impression is that they will be able to complete by the end of December because they cannot drill every day; they have to go in for some repairs or some other assessment; drilling does not continue every day: for a while it has to be stopped and they have to take other measurements; I do not know the details;

there is a break after every 7 or 15 days.

So far as cost is concerned, the cost of the drilling platform itself is, in terms of Indian money, Rs. 11 crores. Then we have also invested for the supply base, supply sheet. I think, apart from Rs. 11 crores, there would be an additional cost to the extent of about Rs. 4,00,95,000. So, the total cost would come to about Rs. 15 to 16 crores. As you know, off-shore drilling is a very expensive proposition.

About these 17 experts, they are from an American company; maybe, they are American nationals; but there could also be other nationals; I am not sure; but they are operating on behalf of the American Offshore Drilling Company.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: I want to know from the hon. Minister whether this drilling is going on as per schedule or ahead of schedule and, secondly, whether any exploration has been done in Andaman Islands, near the Burmah oil fields, to find out oil in that area.

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: After it started spudding, that is, on the 11th of October, since then it has been going on according to schedule. But there has been a delay and that delay was due to the fact that first the trial itself delayed it. Secondly, it arrived here about the 8th or 9th of June and then its functioning depends upon the meteorological conditions. The waves must not be more than 2 metres, *i.e.* 6 feet high and the velocity of the wind also has to be not more than 15 knots to start the work, but once it starts, it can work also in adverse conditions.

Regarding the second part of the question, Andamans have been considered to be a prospective area but the Andamans between India and the Burma side of the Andamans which is very deep, but it is the Indian side of the Andamans between India and the islands which will be prospected for oil.

M.R.T.P. Commission's recommendation for permission to Hindustan Lever Ltd. for manufacture of Sodium Tripoly Phosphate

*23. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission has recommended granting of permission to the Hindustan Lever Ltd. to start a project for the manufacture of Sodium Tripoly Phosphate required in the manufacture of non-soapy detergents; and

(b) whether that will not result in perpetuating the monopolistic stranglehold of Hindustan Lever Ltd., a foreign controlled company?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The report of the M.R.T.P. Commission is under the consideration of the Central Government.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: As it is said that brevity is the soul of wit, perhaps brevity also seems to be the soul of the Minister's reply. He could have given a more elaborate reply.

The professed policy of the Government is at least not to allow the growth of monopolies in the country. If, as recommended by the majority report of the Monopolies Commission, Hindustan Lever which actually has a foreign capital of 85 per cent, is given the exclusive monopolistic position to manufacture sodium tripoly phosphate which is required for the manufacture of synthetic detergents, is it not your opinion that this will further strengthen

the monopolistic position of the Hindustan Lever, it may also concentrate the economic power and it will also act to the detriment and neglect of small manufacturers who want to go in for the manufacture of synthetic detergents? I would like to have a specific answer to this question.

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE): It is because a monopoly was involved that the matter was referred to the Monopolies Commission and, as the hon. Member is aware, in the Monopolies Commission there is a difference of opinion. There is a majority report and there is a minority report. I do appreciate the point of view which the hon. Member mentioned which is taken in the minority report. But the majority report has recommended approval of this proposal, but subject to various conditions.....

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: But as in this House, minority view never counts.

SHRI H. R. GOKHALE: In my view, as a person responsible for taking the decision, both the majority and the minority views are important. I can assure you that the same care and attention would be given to the minority report as it would be given to the majority report. Therefore, relatively, I cannot say that I will consider this and not the other. I will consider both. But, what I am pointing out is that even the majority report has not recommended the acceptance of the proposal as it is, without any reservations or without any restrictions. The restrictions proposed are many, but one of them relates to the aspect mentioned by the hon. Member and that is the condition that the holding of the non-residents in this company, which, as the hon. Member says rightly, is 85 per cent, should be reduced to 70 per cent. That is the recommendation of the Monopolies Commission majority report. Of course, several other conditions are also imposed. All these are under consideration and on which today I am not in a position to give a final information that the Government will take this thing or that thing, but can only say that we will not take any decision in a hurry and without consideration of both the reports.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Is it not the Commission's view that the demand for non-soapy detergents on the basis of which the whole estimate for the manufacture of this sodium tripoly phosphate is made, is actually incorrect in view of the unrealistic estimate that there is a 25 per cent idle capacity? In view of this, is it not necessary that you should make up your mind as to whether you should permit the vertical integration of industries in this country or whether we should have separate industries as it is happening in most parts of the world so that the raw materials might be manufactured by one set of industries and actual non-soapy detergents might be manufactured by another set of industries so that this vertical combination may be avoided. In a country like ours where 42 per cent of the population lives below the povertyline....

MR. SPEAKER: How is it relevant to the question?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: It is very much relevant. In a country like ours where 42 per cent of the population is living below poverty line, is the consumption shift from soaps to non-soapy detergent a desirable phenomenon? This requires to be stepped up? Will you give me a categorical answer that no hasty decision would be taken in this regard without going into all aspects of it?

SHRI H. R. GOKHALE: No hasty decision will be taken in regard to vertical integration of industries. In fact this is one of the main areas which has been gone into by the

minority report. And certainly it will receive a very careful consideration as to whether such a vertical integration should be allowed or not and whether or not the demand—the projected demand—is inflated or it is realistic. We are examining all this. And whatever decision we take that will be related to the actual demands that would exist by the end of the Fifth Plan.

SHRI DHAMANKAR: At present the only manufacturers of S.T.P.P. are M/s. Albert Morarji and Pandit & Co., whose entire production is committed and not available to small-scale industries and medium-scale units. To save the edible oil for human consumption, the production of detergents is to be stepped up along with the increase of production of S.T.P.P.—the basic chemical for detergents. In this context, may I know from Government whether they will expedite the procedural formalities and licence will be given to H.L.L. to manufacture S.T.P.P. with a specific condition that they will sell it to S.S.L. and medium-scale units at Government rates as a safeguard against the monopolistic tendencies of H.L.L.?

SHRI H. R. GOKHALE: Even on the basis of the report of the majority, supposing it were accepted, one of the conditions is that whatever be the production of S.T.P.P. they are not entitled to use the entire production for themselves, they will have to sell a part of their production to other persons who will use them for manufacturing the end-products. A further rider is that they will not sell it at any price which is higher than the price at which they will sell STPP to their own units for manufacture of NSD. The question whether this company should get it or not is under examination. Even the minority report has not said that the production of S.T.P.P. is not necessary. It is possible that they might have suggested alternatives which also we are considering.

SHRI RAJA KULKARNI: In view of the fact that the Commission's Report is divided into two—majority and minority report—will the Government tell us what is the number of pending applications, especially, those from the Indian entrepreneurs? From the point of view of implementing their own projects quickly as compared to Hindustan Lever and also from the economic point of view, why have not decisions been taken by the M.R.T.P.....

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kulkarni, this question that you have asked is not relevant to the main question. The question was about the minority and majority report of the M.R.T.P.

SHRI RAJA KULKARNI: The report has dealt with not only the Hindustan Lever, but also with all the other pending applications. How many of such applications are pending still?

MR. SPEAKER: Will you kindly sit down now? There may be many things in the report. Here it is a specific question.

SHRI RAJA KULKARNI: Hindustan Lever has been specifically mentioned. Along with Hindustan Lever, whether any other application is kept pending and whether a decision has been taken in respect of the other pending applications along with the Hindustan Lever.

SHRI H. R. GOKHALE: The hon. member is perhaps under a misunderstanding that there were several applications pending before the Monopolies Commission. So far as I know, the Commission was considering the case of Hindustan Lever only. Of course, there were some other people like Albert-Morarjee, to whom reference was made. They went and objected. These objections were heard. They were acceptable to the minority, but not to the majority. That is a different matter.

There are certain other proposals. They need not necessarily reach the Commission. Therefore, it is not a question of the Monopolies Commission having considered them. They are under consideration of Government If found necessary, they will also be referred to the Commission.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: I am happy that the hon. Minister has assured this House that he would look into the matter before granting them any permit to start a project for the manufacture of sodium tripoly phosphate. But is he aware that the same Hindustan Lever reduced their production of dalda at a time when the country was in need of it? It was an anti-national act on the part of Hindustan Lever. In view of their performance and in view of repeated complaints received from various quarters, will he investigate these complaints and inform the House that a proper investigation has been made?

MR. SPEAKER: I think it is not relevant here. It is a suggestion for action.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Our main objection is to their being given a permit in view of their performance. Is an inquiry going to be made into these complaints?

MR. SPEAKER: He can table a separate question.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: It will come after 21 days and may become an unstarred question.

MR. SPEAKER: But I do not know how to thrust his question into this.

SHRI SHYAMANDAN MISHRA: May we know whether it is open to the Commission to make any recommendation which patently conflicts with the declared policy of the Government? The Commission has recommended that the foreign holdings should be scaled down from 85 to 70 per cent. So far as our knowledge goes, Government's declared policy is that foreign holdings should be scaled down to a level below 50 per cent. So is the Commission in order in making a recommendation that they should be scaled down from 85 to 70 per cent only? Secondly, why did the Government think it necessary to send up a proposal of Hindustan Lever when there were other proposals before it? Does it not imply limited approval by the Government of the proposals of Hindustan Lever?

SHRI H. R. GOKHALE: First of all, not every proposal is referred to the Commission.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: Why did Government send it up when there were other proposals also ending before it?

SHRI H. R. GOKHALE: In this case, it was a clear case of a majority foreign holding, a monopoly concern. We thought we should not take a decision without taking the advice of the Commission.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: My point is being missed. They had other proposals before them. Why did they send up this one?

SHRI H. R. GOKHALE: I am replying to it. Some of them were pending examination. They are still under examination. I am not saying that they will not be referred to the Commission. What I am saying is that this was the one examination of which was completed and was sent to the Commission. The others also may be referred to the Commission; I am not saying they will not be.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: My main question remains unanswered. Is it open to the Commission to make a recommendation which conflicts with the declared policy of the Government in regard to foreign holdings? The hon'ble Minister cannot be allowed to get away like this. He must answer it.

SHRI H. R. GOKHALE: First of all, there is an assumption that under the law, there is a limit with regard to non-resident holdings of companies which are in existence. For the future under the new law which is coming, the foreign holdings may be limited in non-priority fields to 40 per cent to 45 per cent—I do not remember the exact percentage. So far as the Monopolies Commission is concerned, it is free to take whatever view it thinks reasonable. But certainly it is not open to Government to do anything against its declared policy. The recommendations of the Monopolies Commission are not binding on the Government. We will consider all the aspects including the existing policy of the Government.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: Any limb of the Government cannot go against the declared policy of the Government. It is a limb of the Government.

SHRI H. R. GOKHALE: I am sorry. It is not a limb of the Government.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: The hon. Minister has asserted that the Monopolies Commission's recommendations have not been taken up to take any action regarding this issue. I would like to know, in view of the large-scale complaints against Hindustan Lever which, as a foreign holdings company, is allowed to manufacture all essential commodities in this country, which are required for the vulnerable sections of society, whether the hon. Minister will, before taking any decision, take into consideration the question of taking over this company. In order to avoid all confusion, I would like to know whether steps have been taken to nationalise this company so that the Government may own this company which has got foreign holdings.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. You are again up. Has the Minister understood his question?

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: I will be very brief in my question so that the Hon. Minister will understand. In view of the fact that the matter has not been settled, I would like to know whether the Ministry is making any effort to take over this company, that is, nationalise this company.

MR. SPEAKER: He says that in view of the number of complaints against this company, whether the Government will take over this company.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Sir,....

MR. SPEAKER: Do not further confuse it.

SHRI H. R. GOKHALE: What is the case against Hindustan Lever, except that it is undoubtedly a majority foreign holding company? It is also true that in respect of certain matters like prices, etc., although it is not related to this question, I may take the House into confidence and say that we have used and we are using such powers in the company law for carrying out an inspection even in respect of this company and they are in progress.

श्री मधु लिमये : अध्यक्ष महोदय, इसमें सीधी सी बात यह है कि ये जो बड़ी-बड़ी अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय कम्पनियां हैं और हमारे देश में जो मोनोपली कम्पनियां हैं, इनका यह दांव-पेच हमेशा रहता है कि वे उत्पादन की शक्ति पर अधिकार जमा लेते हैं, कैपेसिटी को प्री-एम्प्ट करते हैं ताकि बाद में कोई नया यूनिट न आये। आपका जो वर्तमान मोनोपली एक्ट और मोनोपली कमीशन है, उसको आप ने ऐसा बना दिया है कि एकाधिकारशाही पर रोक लगाने की उनकी कोई शक्ति नहीं है और न आप की ऐसी कोई इच्छा है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि कैपेसिटी को प्रि-एम्प्ट करने का जो तरीका है, क्या इसको सरकार रोकेगी अगर नहीं रोकना चाहती है तो मोनोपली एक्ट

और मोनोपली कमीशन को खत्म कर दिया जाय, इस पर फिजूलखर्ची क्यों हो रही है ?

SHRI H. R. GOKHALE: What is the question?

MR. SPEAKER: It is a suggestion for action.

श्री मधु लिमये : मैं यही पूछ रहा हूं किजो कैपेसिटी को प्री-एम्प्ट करते हैं, क्या इस पर कोई रोक लगायेंगे ? अभी मैजारिटी रिपोर्ट आई; र दि उसको आपने मान लिया, उसके बाद तो नई कम्पनियों की एप्लीकेशन पर विचार करने का सवाल ही पैदा नहीं होता है ।

SHRI H. R. GOKHALE: So far as this STPP is concerned, the question of pre-empting the capacity will not arise for this reason that even if the majority recommendation is accepted by the Government,—which I am not sure, because we will consider the minority report very carefully—even then, one of the conditions which the majority has imposed is that even though they might be allowed to produce at a certain capacity, they will not be entitled to use their whole production for themselves. Secondly, with regard to the pending applications, the projected demand is so much; I think it is 20,000 now, and in the fifth five year Plan it would be something like 1,35,000, subject to the comments of the hon. Member, Shri Madhu Dandavate, that this is also exaggerated; but that is a different matter. The projected demand is so much that there is ample scope for giving permission to the other proposals—the small entrepreneurs prefer—which will be taken into account from that point of view. (*Interruption*).

श्री मधु लिमये: पहले उन को मदद कीजिए, बाद में हिन्दुस्तान लीवर को कीजिए ।

Steps taken by Railway Board to bring about Economy in Expenditure

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*25. SHRI P. M. MEHTA:
SHRI SHASHI BHUSHAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Board has taken certain steps to bring about economy in expenditure; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On the non-Plan side, economy is to be achieved through reduced expenditure on contingencies and travelling allowances. On the Plan expenditure, a 10 per cent cut has been imposed on relatively low priority works and schemes. Care has been taken to ensure that the hard core development programmes of Railways do not suffer by the economy cut and that essential works continue to be proceeded with.

SHRI P. M. MEHTA: Government are aware of the demand made in this House by Members of all sides for abolishing the Railway Board and the abolition itself will save huge amounts and will improve efficiency. Has any decision been taken to abolish the Railway Board, if not the reasons therefor?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: There is no proposal to abolish the Railway Board.

SHRI P. M. MEHTA: I had not asked whether there is any proposal. There was a demand from Members here. During every budget session there is a demand for the abolition of the Railway Board. Have the Government taken any decision on that demand?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI. Whenever the railway demands come before the House, some hon. Members have demanded that the Railway Board should be abolished. Government has considered all aspects and have found that the Railway Board consists of efficient technocrats who are doing a good job and there is no move for the removal of the Railway Board.

SHRI P. M. MEHTA: The railway proposes to bring about economy in the expenditure. On the other hand the Railways force their employees to go on strike and instead of economy in expenditure, there is heavy loss. What steps have been taken to normalise industrial relations between employees and the railway management? What is the reaction of the Government to the demand of bonus by railway employees?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: Our operations had been affected in various ways. There are strikes and go-slow tactics by the employees of the Indian Railways. There are other matters like the Sholapur bandh which has nothing to do with the railways. As a result of the loco staff strike the railways lost nearly Rs. 14.67 crores and due to the Sholapur bandh which lasted for ten days, we have lost over rupee one crore. It had nothing to do with the railway employees. The Budget estimates for 1973-74 as approved by Parliament left an uncovered gap of 9.80 crores. At that time we did not consider the Pay Commission's recommendations which may mean an additional expenditure to the tune of Rs. 48 crores. There are other expenditure like the first provisional D.A., second provisional D.A., implementation of wage boards, which would mean Rs. 110 crores additional expenditure for the railways. I would give the picture as it exists today. As on 20th September 1973, earnings have fallen short of the budgeted target by approximately Rs. 44.44 crores. With the price hike in other commodities, the total loss suffered by the railways would be about Rs. 158 crores.

SHRI D. N. TIWARY: Is it a fact that the railways have cancelled more than 200 running trains—in Samastipur section alone they have cancelled more than 50 passenger trains—to conserve coal and economise?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: It is a fact that because of coal shortage, we have cancelled a few trains, but these are very unimportant branch-line trains in the sense that road transport is available in these areas.

SHRI TRIDIB CHAUDHURI: It has been reported that the Central Government have decided to cut down expenditure to the tune of Rs. 500 crores, of which the cut to be effected by States is Rs. 100 crores. May I ask what is the share of the railways in this cut of Rs. 400 crores? Do the Railway Ministry seriously consider that by economising on travelling allowance and contingencies alone they can effect any economy at all? Should there not be more drastic thinking about economy, apart from closing down lines?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: As I said, we have imposed a 10 per cent cut on the capital budget, which comes to about Rs. 17 crores. We have taken various measures to cut non-plan expenditure also and those cuts will yield about Rs. 3 to 4 crores. That means, the total economy would be to the tune of Rs. 20 crores approximately.

SHRI K. MALLANNA: May I know whether the Railway Board has taken any loan from the International Development Association for the improvement of railways and if so, how much amount it has taken and for what purpose?

MR. SPEAKER: The main question is about economy.

SRI K. MALLANNA: Economy includes improvement of railways also.

MR. SPEAKER: If that is the interpretation, I cannot help it.

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: I do not have the information asked for by the hon. Member.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : अध्यक्ष जी, रेलों में अनेक विशेष सैलून हैं और अफसर बड़ी संख्या में उन विशेष सैलूनों का उपयोग करते हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूं क्या खर्चा कम करने के तौर पर रेल मंत्री इस बात पर भी विचार कर रहे हैं कि सभी सैलून समाप्त कर दें और जो साधारण गाड़ियां चलती हैं उन्हीं से रेलवे अफसर जाया करे ?

श्री मुहम्मद शफ़ी कुरेशी : अंग्रेजों के जमाने में रेलवे में जितने सैलून थे उनसे अब संख्या बहुत कम है।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : कितने हैं ?

श्री मुहम्मद शफ़ी कुरेशी : 400 के करीब हैं। लेकिन वह इन्सपेक्शन कैरिजेज हैं, सैलून नहीं हैं। अफसरों को इन्सपेक्शन करने के लिये उनमें जाना पड़ता है और उसी के लिये उनका इस्तेमाल किया जाता है और उसपर भी यह हिदायत दी गई है कि कम से कम उन का प्रयोग करें।

SHRI DASARATHA DEB: The operation of as many 22 trains in the North Eastern Railways has been suspended, creating much difficulties in the movement of food and travel of passengers. Is it also due to the policy of effecting economy in expenditure?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: I have explained that it is because of the difficult coal position in various sector that we had to cancel some trains; it is not as a part of the economy drive. As soon as the coal position improves these trains would be restarted.

श्री राजेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव: आज जब कम खर्चे की बात की जाती है तो मैं जानना चाहता हूं क्या मंत्री जी को इस बात की जानकारी है कि जब उनके जनरल मैनेजर्स चलते हैं तो उनकी स्पेशल गाड़ियां चलती हैं और सभी विभागों के जितने भी अध्यक्ष होते हैं वे सब उनके साथ चलते हैं, उनको अन्य एलाउन्स के अतिरिक्त जर्किंग एलाउन्स दिया जाता है तो क्या यह कम खर्चे का नमूना है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आपने तो रेलवे पर जनरल डिबेट शुरू कर दी।

श्री राजेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव : मेरा प्रश्न है। मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि वाराणसी में एक आफिसर्स क्लब बना हुआ है तो दो लाख खर्च करके दूसरा आफिसर क्लब बनाना कम खर्ची का नमूना है या अधिक खर्ची का नमूना है ?

श्री मुहम्मद शफ़ी कुरेशी : जनरल मैनेजर्स जब भी मुआइने के लिए बाहर जाते हैं तो वे इन्सपेक्शन कैरिज का इस्तेमाल कर सकते हैं। जैसा कि माननीय सदस्य ने कहा उसमें और भी बहुत से कर्मचारी जाते हैं तो यह भी एक एकोनामी ड्राइव है। बजाय इसके कि एक आफिसर सफर करे, अगर दस अफसर उसका इस्तेमाल करें तो उससे भी खर्चा चल जाता है।

जहां तक क्लब का ताल्लुक है, मेरे पास इस समय इतला नहीं है ।

श्री राजनारायण यादव : अध्यक्ष जी, मेरे द्वारा जर्किंग एलाउन्स का सवाल जो उठाया गया था, वह अनुत्तरित ही रह गया ।

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH: In the course of the reply the hon. Minister has referred to the Sholapur bandh. While effecting economy without affecting efficiency, will the Government seriously consider the question of re-organisation of railway zones in the country on a rational basis so that such bandh do not take place? For instance, the Guntakal division, which should more rationally be included in the South Central Railways has been tagged on to the Southern Railway and *vice versa* in the case of the Sholapur Division. So, will the Government consider reorganisation of zones?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: The railway zones have been formed purely on organisational and administrative grounds. There can be no question of re-organising them on linguistic or parochial basis. If there is any demand for re-organisaton of certain zones on purely organisational, administrative or operational basis, Government would certainly look into them.

SHRI S. B. GIRI: Now that transport by the automobile industry has come down on account of the steep rise in petrol prices, is the Railway Minister prepared to make arrangements to take over all the passenger and goods traffic?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: The railways have their own difficulties. It is not possible for the railways to take up the entire transport system of the country.

MR. SPEAKER: The Question Hour is over.

I would request the Members not to add any introduction and speeches along with their questions. We are not able to do many Questions. I am not going to allow it from tomorrow. I have been just watching you and calling your attention to that so that you may do it voluntarily. But you do not do it.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Rise in Price of Crude Oil in International Market

*24. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of crude oil has risen sharply in international market consequent on the West Asian crisis:

(b) if so, what is the current price of crude imported by India; and

(c) what are the prospects of future supplies and prices?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI D. K. BOROOAH): (a) There has been a steep increase in the prices of crude oil consequent on the unilateral revision of posted prices by the Gulf Members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries from 16-10-1973.

(b) The current provisional f.o.b. price of Light Iranian crude imported by India is 3.86 dollar/bbl and that of Arabian Mix 3.58 dollar/bbl.

(c) No difficulty is envisaged in meeting crude oil requirements. Price increases are, however, expected to continue.

Damage caused due to Cyclonic Storm in Orissa in October, 1973

*26. SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAKODKAR:

SHRI D. K. PANDA:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of lives lost and the total damage caused to crops in Orissa due to cyclonic storm in October, 1973; and

(b) whether any remedial measures have been taken?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) A severe cyclonic storm hit the Orissa coast in the early hours of October 12. The resultant heavy rain and floods affected mainly Balasore and Mayurbhanj districts. According to the reports received from the State Government, a cropped area of 2.9 lakh hectares was affected and 43 human lives were lost.

(b) Cyclones being natural phenomena cannot be prevented. However, measure are taken to protect and minimise loss of life and property by the issue of advance warnings to the areas likely to be affected. The India Meteorological Department issued warnings of the cyclone from October 7. The State Government alerted their field officers accordingly. Evacuation of the people to safer places was made both before and after the cyclone and floods. Arrangements were also made for providing emergent relief.

Power Break-Downs in Delhi

*27. SHRI JAGANNATH MISHRA:

SHRI S. A. MURUGANANTHAM:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been frequent power break-downs during the last six months in Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to normalise the power supply?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) and (b). There nave been two major breakdowns in the generating stations at Delhi in the last six months.

(i) Breakdown on 26th June, 1973, was caused by heavy system loading, forced outage of certain generating units compounded with extremely low voltage of Bhakra supply due to system loading conditions.

(ii) Breakdown on 10th August: Precise reasons for this breakdown are being enquired into by a Committee, the report of which is expected shortly.

Besides, there have been a number of local interruptions in supply to different localities or areas as a result of faults in the distribution system.

(c) A committee headed by Member (Thermal) of the Central Water and Power Commission, which went into the question of breakdowns in the generating stations, has made a number of suggestions including protective relay setting and coordination, preventive maintenance, etc. Follow up action on these suggestions is in progress.

To prevent local interruptions due to faults in the distribution system, a number of measures have been initiated, such as, arrangement for alternative sources of supply, conversion of overhead high tension lines into underground cables where necessary, augmentation of mains and sub-stations where necessary, more rigorous maintenance of lines and sub-stations, providing section boxes on the distribution lines, etc.

Assurances given to Leaders of All India Locomen and Running Staff Association

*28. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE:
SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the assurances given to the leaders of the All India Locomen and Running Staff Association during the last strike have been fulfilled;

(b) if not, what are the demands which are still being discussed; and

(c) when a final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS: (SHRI L. N. MISHRA): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

All the assurances in question have either been implemented or are in the process of implementation. The detailed position is as follows:—

Assurance	*Position*
1. All those who have been arrested in connection with the agitation (May-August 1973) will be released as soon as the present agitation is called off except those charged under law for acts of sabotage, damage to railway property and violence. Charge-sheets filed against the persons under the provisions of D.I.R. for acts which do not involve sabotage damage to railway property or violence, shall be reviewed by the Committee and appropriate action will be initiated for getting such charge-sheets withdrawn. With respect of acts of sabotage damage to railway property and violence, State Governments are being asked to take appropriate action in each case on merits.	1. All the employees who had been arrested have been released. Regarding withdrawal of charge-sheets filed under D.I.R. the State Governments concerned have been requested to withdraw charge-sheets not involving sabotage, damage to railway property and violence in cases where court proceedings have not been started, and to postpone further proceedings in cases where proceedings in courts have already started.
2. All those released from arrest will be taken back on duty.	2. This has been done.
3. Penal transfers, reversions, suspensions and removals arising out of the agitations or in connection with the agitations shall be withdrawn except those charged with acts of sabotage, damage to railway property and violence.	3. Necessary action in this direction has been taken. However, the Loco Staff members of the *ad-hoc* committee have brought to the notice of the Committee Chairman, certain transfers etc. which in their view were penal but have not been treated as such by the Railway Administrations. The Chairman of the Committee is personally examining these cases as and when they are brought to his notice.
4. Break in service shall be condoned.	4. Done.

Assurance	*osition*
5. The period of absence arising out of the present agitation from 1-8-73 will be adjusted against leave earned and in cases where leave earned is not due shall be adjusted against leave to be earned in the immediate future.	5. Done.
6. Charge-sheets of administrative character directly connected with trade union activities or activities arising out of agitations (May-August, 1973) shall be withdrawn.	6. Railway Administration have been instructed not only to comply with this assurance but to review all cases where penalties may have been imposed.
7. The NFIR & AIRF, had, for many years in the Permanent Negotiating Machinery and elsewhere demanded the review of the hours of work. This question of hours of work was referred to the Mahbhoy Tribunal which gave its recommendations in August, 1972. After examining international standards and practices and conditions prevailing in this country, the Tribunal had accepted in principle that there was a case for reduction of hours of work (duty at a stretch) for the running staff, namely, Locomen, guards and brakesmen. I accept this position. During the period of the last ten days, I had a number of meetings with the leaders of the two recognised federations NFIR & AIRF also and I have had the benefit of their views on this complicated matter. After giving considerable thought to this question and in response to the demand of the workers I have agreed to a revision which is defined in precise terms as under:— "Members of the loco running staff will not be required to work for more than ten hours at a stretch from signing on to signing off." Details and mode and manner of the implementation of ten hours of work will be discussed and finalised by the Committee to be appointed and held between the representatives of the loco running staff and the Government within six weeks from the withdrawal of this agitation.	7. The Committee is still deliberating on the mode and manner of implementation of the 10-hour working as the matter is complicated. However, action has, in the meantime, been taken to set up a special organisation on each Railway to ensure that all arrangements required in connection with the full implementation of 10-hour working are made on top-priority basis.
8. All the assurances given by the Government from the period commencing from July, 1957 to date that have remained unimplemented shall be implemented as expeditiously as possible.	All assurances given by the Government have been fulfilled.

Assurance	Position
9. To discuss the other points of grievances, a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Mohd. Shafi Qureshi, Dy. Minister for Railways, with five senior officials of the Ministry of Railways and five representatives of the loco running staff will be constituted and commence functioning within five days of the resumption of the work by the loco running staff. A representative of the Ministry of Labour will also attend the meeting.	9. During their discussions with the Minister for Railways, which led to the Statement by Minister for Railways in Parliament on 13-8-1973, the Loco Running Staff members had referred to following grievances:— (1) Pay protection: This includes Mileage Allowance and job guarantee within a period of 3 months of decategorisation; (2) Same pay for same work; (3) Rationalisation of the basis for the payment of Mileage Allowance. These three items are yet to be considered by the Committee.

Committee to look into Demands of Power Engineers

*29. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a news-item appearing in the *'Indian Express'* dated the 7th September, 1973, under the caption "Panel to look into Demands of Engineers"; and

(b) if so, the decisions taken by Government to meet the demands of the Power Engineers in the country to avoid strike and sabotage of power by the Engineers and workers?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Electricity Supply Industry in the country is largely organised under the charge of different State Electricity Board and power engineers are mostly the employees of the State Electricity Boards. Their grievances and demands have, therefore, to be considered by the State Electricity Boards/State Governments. As regards power engineers belonging to the Central Cadre, their demands are being examined by the Central Government along with the recommendations of the Pay Commission.

विदेशी तेल कम्पनियों से मांगा गया स्पष्टीकरण

*30. श्री भागीरथ भंवर : क्या पैट्रोलियम और रसायन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या सरकार ने दो विदेशी तेल कम्पनियों से भारत में उनके तेल शोधन कारखाने के लिये लाए जाने वाले कच्चे तेल में कटौती करने के बारे में स्पष्टीकरण मांगा है ?

पैट्रोलियम और रसायन मंत्री (श्री देवकान्त बरुआ): उन देशों, जिन्होंने इसरायल का समर्थन किया है और जो अरबों के न्याय संगत अधिकारों का दावा किये जाने तथा इसरायली आक्रमण द्वारा कब्जे में किये गये उनके इलाके को स्वतन्त्र करवाने में अरब देशों का विरोध करते रहे हैं, पर दबाव डालने के लिये अरब देशों द्वारा हथियार के रूप में तेल का प्रयोग एक सोद्देश्य कार्यवाही है। सरकार को आश्वासन दिया गया है कि इसके कारण भारत को की जा रही कच्चे तेल की सप्लाई में

कोई बुरा प्रभाव नहीं पड़ेगा । तथापि, भारत में कच्चे तेल का आयात करने वाली कम्पनियों ने सरकार को सूचित किया है कि उनकी कुल उपलब्धि में यदि कोई कमी हुई तो उन्हें अपनी सप्लाई को विभिन्न देशों में सख्ती से अनुपात में बांटना पड़ेगा किन्तु वे कटौती न करने का पूरा प्रयत्न करेंगे । इस समय सप्लाई में कमी की सीमा का सही अनुमान नहीं लगाया जा सकता । तेल कम्पनियों ने और आश्वासन भी दिया है कि उनकी सप्लाई का कोई भी अंश उन देशों को नहीं भेजा जायेगा जो "प्रतिबंधित सूची" में हैं ।

Clearance of Wanek Bori Thermal Power Station Project

*31. SHRI SOMCHAND SOLANKI: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have made up their mind for early clearance of the Wanek Bori Thermal Power Station project, to meet the needs of chemical industries to be set up after the establishment of Petro-chemical complex and in the fields of aluminium and fertilizers; and

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) and (b). The project report is under examination.

Electoral Rolls in U.P.

*32. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA:
SHRI JHARKHANDE RAI:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Electoral Rolls in Uttar Pradesh have not yet been completed;

(b) if so, when these are likely to be completed; and

(c) when the Elections will be held there?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. GHOKHALE): (a) and (b). The work regarding the revision of the electoral rolls for the existing Assembly Constituencies in Uttar Pradesh, is at the stage of completion and the rolls are being got ready for final publication.

(c) The term of the existing Legislative Assembly of Uttar Pradesh is due to expire on the 16th March, 1974. The Election Commission will be taking action in due course about the fixation of the time of election to the Legislative Assembly of that State, having regard to the provisions of clause (1) of article 172 of the Constitution.

कोचीन कायकुलम समुद्र-तटीय रेलवे लाईन का निर्माण

*33. **श्री हेमेन्द्र सिंह बनेरा :** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि ।

(क) क्या कोचीन कायकुलम समुद्र तटीय रेलवे लाईन के निर्माण का प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचाराधीन है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका मोटा ब्यौरा क्या है और निर्माण कार्य कब तक आरम्भ हो जायेगा ?

रेल मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री मुहम्मद शफ़ी कुरेशी) : (क) जी नहीं ।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

Impact of Israel-Egypt War on Crude Oil Supply to India

*34. SHRI M. S. PURTY:
SHRI K. MALLANNA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any effect on the supply of crude oil to

India due to the recent war between Israel and Egypt; and

(b) if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI D. K. BOROOAH): (a) and (b). The use of oil by the Arab world is a deliberate act to bring pressure on countries who have supported Israel and have been unfriendly to the Arabs in their just struggle for asserting their legitimate rights and liberating their territory occupied by Israeli aggression. Government have been assured that the supply of crude oil to India will not be affected on this account. However, the companies importing crude oil into India have informed Government that if there is any reduction in their overall availability they would have to strictly prorate their supplies to the various countries but they would do their best to avoid any cut. They would also not carry crude to any banned country. The extent of reduction cannot be precisely estimated at present. The Oil Companies have further assured that no part of their supplies would be diverted to the countries on the "banned list".

Scheme to Attract Private Investment for setting up Fuel Based Fertilizer Units

*36. SHRI E. V. VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised any scheme designed to attract new private investment for setting up fertilizer units based on fuel oil; and

(b) if so, the nature of incentives proposed to be offered to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b). The general question of providing suitable incentives to speed up flow of fresh investment into the fertilizer industry is under consideration with due regard to Government policy about choice of fertilizer feedstock. This involves several issues, which need to be dealt with on an integrated basis. Meanwhile, Government have decided to exempt fuel oil from excise duty when used as feedstock for fertilizer production.

Installation of Kerosene Oil Distribution Pumps in Delhi and other Metropolitan Cities

*37. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to instal Kerosene Oil distribution pumps in various parts of Delhi;

(b) if so, the number of such pumps proposed to be installed in the Union Territory of Delhi; and

(c) whether Government propose to extend this facility to other Metropolitan cities in the country as well?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI D. K. BOROOAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). One such pump was set up in Delhi on 11th October, 1973, to provide an improved mode of dispensing Kerosene for the public convenience. With the near equalisation of Kerosene-Oil price with that of High Speed Diesel Oil, it is proposed to introduce the sale of Kerosene Oil from the Oil Companies' existing retail outlets situated at convenient locations. The exact number of retail outlets, and separate dealers' premises, where dispensing of Kerosene can be started through separate pumps is at present under examination by the oil companies. It is proposed to start this scheme on an experimental basis by the end of the current month. Once the public reaction to this scheme is ascertained, it will be extended to the other Metropolitan cities and retail outlets situated in the rural areas.

Meeting held on the Cauvery Water Issue

*38. SHRI C. K. JAFFAR SHARIEF:

SHRI M. KAHAMUTHU:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of meetings so far held on the issue of Cauvery Water among the Chief Ministers of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala; and

(b) the outcome of their meetings?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) The Chief Ministers/Ministers of Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have held five meetings during 1970, one meeting in 1972 and so far two meetings in 1973 on the Cauvery waters issues.

(b) The discussions of May, 1972 amongst the Chief Ministers resulted in a general consensus that a serious attempt should be made to resolve differences by negotiations as early as possible. There was also consensus that the Centre should appoint a Fact Finding Committee to collect all the connected data pertaining to Cauvery waters, their utilisation and irrigation practices as also about projects both existing, under construction and proposed in the Cauvery basin. The Committee should further examine the adequacy of the present supplies or excessive use of water for irrigation purposes. A Fact Finding Committee was accordingly set up by Government of India on 12th June, 1972.

The Fact Finding Committee submitted its report in December, 1972. As desired by the Chief Ministers, after considering this report in April, 1973, the Committee was revived in May, 1973 to review the data supplied by State Governments in respect of area cropped and area irrigated etc. and undertake such verification as was necessary. The Committee submitted its additional report in August, 1973.

The Chief Minister of Karnataka and Ministers of Kerala and Tamil Nadu and the Union Minister of Irrigation and Power discussed the Committee's reports on 9th and 10th October, 1973. The discussions showed that it might be possible to reach a settlement by negotiation of the dispute on Cauvery waters. During the discussions, the States have agreed that it is necessary to effect economies in the present water utilisation, as well as that envisaged in new projects. The States desired that the Government of India should make a study on the scope for economy in the use of water. These studies are in progress and are expected to be completed in a few weeks.

Action taken to break Monopoly of HMV/EMI

*39. SHRI MADHU LIMAYE: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the case of HMV/EM has been referred to or has been taken up by the Monopolies Commission;

(b) if so, the matters which the said Commission is probing;

(c) whether any action has been taken at Governmental level to break the monopoly of this Company and curb its restrictive practices, and

(d) whether the Company has been advised to improve its terms to the artistes and dealers?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE): (a) and (b). The Registrar of Restrictive Trade Agreements has made an application to the M. R. T. P. Commission under section 10(a) (iii) of the M. R. T. P. Act, 1969 for an inquiry under section 37 of the Act in the case of Gramophone Co., of India Ltd. into various restrictive trade practices indulged in by it.

(c) The Registrar of Restrictive Trade Agreements has already brought the matter to the notice of the M.R.T.P. Commission for such orders as are deemed necessary after due enquiry which is in progress. By virtue of Section 37 of the M.R.T.P. Act, the said Commission is competent to make an order if, after making an enquiry, it is of opinion that any restrictive trade practice is prejudicial to the public interest.

(d) The application made by the Registrar of Restrictive Trade Agreements is still being enquired into by the Commission.

ब्रह्मपुत्र नदी के जल के उपयोग के लिए स्वायत्तशासी निगम

*40. **श्री महादीपक सिंह शाक्य** : क्या **सिंचाई और विद्युत** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या ब्रह्मपुत्र नदी के जल के उपयोग के लिये सरकार ने स्वायत्तशासी निगम की स्थापना की अनुमति दे दी है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसकी मुख्य बातें क्या हैं ?

सिंचाई और विद्युत् मंत्री (श्री कृष्ण चन्द्र पन्त) : (क) और (ख). ब्रह्मपुत्र घाटी में बाढ़ नियंत्रण उपायों के आयोजन तथा कार्यान्वयन के लिये सरकार ने केन्द्रीय क्षेत्र में एक ब्रह्मपुत्र नदी बोर्ड के गठन के हेतु एक प्रस्ताव को स्वीकृत किया है। इस उद्देश्य हेतु बिल के मसौदे को अंतिम रूप दिया जा रहा है और इसको संसद के वर्तमान अधिवेशन में प्रस्तुत करने का प्रस्ताव है।

India's Offer of Assistance for setting up a Fertiliser Plant in Iraq

202. SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Government have offered their services to the Government of Iraq for setting up a fertiliser plant in Iraq; and

(b) if so, the man features of the offer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b). Certain aspects relating to the setting up of a joint venture fertilizer project in Iraq are under discussion between the two Governments.

Setting up of Petro-Chemical Industries in Gujarat

203. SHRI SOMCHAND SOLANKI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the broad outlines of various petro-chemical industries which have been or are proposed to be established in Gujarat;

(b) how many are in progress and how many are under consideration; and

(c) the factors which are proving hindrance in the way?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b). The details of Petro-chemical units which have been approved for location in Gujarat are given in the statement laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-5666/73]. The possibility of approval of capacity for Alkyl Amines and V.C./P.V.C. is under examination.

(c) No particular difficulty has been experienced.

Inquiry into excessive profits made by the Multi-National Drug Firms

204. SHRI SOMCHAND SOLANKI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be please to refer to the reply given to Starred

Question No. 239 on the 7th August, 1973 and state:

(a) whether Government propose to inquire into the excess profits made by multi-national drug firms in the past as has been done by the U.K. Government; and

(b) if so, whether such firms as have *made excess profits* would be required to refund the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) Since the prices of medicinal preparations are controlled under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order 1970, no action similar to that taken in U.K. is required.

(b) Does not arise. However those companies who have opted for para 14 of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order 1970, are required to fund separately the profits in excess of 15 per cent on turn-over, to be utilised only with prior approval of Central Government for specified purposes as indicated in the order.

Foreign Drug Firms Seeking Additonal Formulation Capacity

205. SHRI SOMCHAND SOLANKI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2351 dated 7th August, 1973 and state:

(a) for how long each of the pending applications has been under consideration;

(b) when these applications are expected to be disposed of finally; and

(c) the circumstances under which applications of foreign firms are being considered for additional formulation capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b). A statement of applications pending todate out of those stated in reply to Unstarred Question No. 2351 dated the 7th August, 1973 is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-5667/73.] These applications are expected to be finalised shortly.

(c) The applications are submitted by the parties concerned under the IR(D&R) Act and considered under the provisions of the above mentioned Act and the Industrial Licensing Policy of the Government in force from time to time.

Looting of Cash and Valuables worth Rs. 10,000 from passengers of 36 Dn. Barauni-Jogbani train

206. SHRI M. S. PURTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item appearing in the 'Times of India' dated the 27th August, 1973 to the effect that a group of youths, armed with pistols and choppers, looted cash and valuables worth Rs. 10,000 from passengers of a third class compartment of the 36 Down Barauni-Jogbani train between Thana Bihpur and Kharik stations; and

(b) if so, whether any investigation has so far been made by Railway Department in this regard and if so, the results thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) Yes, a dacoity took place in 36 Down between Thana Bihpur and Kharik stations of North Eastern Railway on the night of 24/25-8-1973. Ten/twelve passengers were robbed of their belongings valued at about Rs. 1,000 only.

(b) The Bihar Police has arrested the members of a gang responsible in this dacoity. Some country-made pistols and a big knife have been recovered from them. The accused persons are being charge-sheeted in the court of law shortly.

सितम्बर, 1973 में पूर्वोत्तर रेलवे पर बेगूसराय के निकट डाकुओं द्वारा यात्रियों को लूटा जाना तथा महिलाओं को नग्न किया जाना

207. **श्री एम० एस० पुरती :** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या बेगूसराय के निकट चाटिया बारियारपुर पर 10 सितम्बर, 1973 की रात को पूर्वोत्तर रेलवे पर बरौनी हाजीपुर लाइन सेक्शन पर 60 डाकुओं ने यात्रियों को लूट लिया और महिलाओं तथा युवतियों को लूटकर नंगा कर दिया ;

(ख) क्या इस घटना की कोई जांच कराई गई है ; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या परिणाम निकले ?

रेल मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री मुहम्मद शफ़ी कुरैशी) : (क) जी नहीं । लेकिन 8/9–9–73 को पूर्वोत्तर रेलवे के मोहिउद्दीनगर और विद्यापतिनगर स्टेशनों के बीच 32 डाउन सवारी गाड़ी में एक डकैती हुई थी । आठ-दस सशस्त्र अपराधियों ने एक यात्री से, जो अपनी मां और दो बहनों के साथ यात्रा कर रहा था, उसकी कलाई घड़ी, सोने की जंजीर और अंगूठी लूट ली ।

(ख) और (ग). बिहार पुलिस इस लूट के लिये जिम्मेदार गिरोह के सदस्यों को पहले ही पकड़ चुकी है । इन अपराधियों पर शीघ्र ही न्यायालय में आरोप पत्र दाखिल किये जाने की सम्भावना है ।

दिल्ली के बिजली घरों में तोड़-फोड़ की घटनाएं

208. **श्री चन्दूलाल चन्द्राकर :** क्या सिंचाई और विद्युत् मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) दिल्ली के बिजली घरों में कुछ दिन पूर्व तोड़ फोड़ की घटनाओं के संबंध में नियुक्त की गई उच्चाधिकार सम्पन्न जांच समिति द्वारा कितने व्यक्तियों को दोषी ठहराया गया है ;

(ख) दोषी व्यक्तियों के विरुद्ध क्या कार्यवाही की गई है ;

(ग) उससे कितनी अनुमानित हानि हुई है ; और

(घ) इस पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

सिंचाई और विद्युत् मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री सिद्धेश्वर प्रसाद) : (क) से (ग). दिल्ली विद्युत प्रदाय संस्थान के उत्पादन केन्द्रों में खराबियों के कारणों की जांच करने के लिये और यह निश्चित करने के लिये कि क्या ये खराबियां संस्थान के अधिकारियों अथवा कर्मचारियों की ओर से हुई किन्हीं भूलों के कारण हुई है, दिल्ली के उप-राज्यपाल द्वारा 14 सितम्बर, 1973 को एक उच्च शक्तिप्राप्त समिति नियुक्त की गई है । इस समिति के प्रतिवेदन की प्रतीक्षा है ।

(घ) अभी प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

कोयले के संकट के कारण उत्तर बिहार की रेल सेवा तथा स्टीमर सेवा पर प्रभाव

209. **श्री चन्दूलाल चन्द्राकर** : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या कोयले के संकट के कारण उत्तर रेलवे में उत्तर बिहार रेल सेवाओं तथा स्टीमर सेवाओं पर बुरा प्रभाव पड़ा है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इससे रेलवे को कितनी हानि हुई ; और

(ग) समय रहते हुए सावधानी न बरतने के कारण क्या हैं ?

रेल मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री मुहम्मद शफ़ी कुरेशी) : (क) जी हां ।

(ख) 1-5-1973 से 31-10-73 तक की अवधि में राजस्व में, 2,73,359 रुपये की हानि होने का अनुमान है ।

(ग) इस वर्ष के प्रारम्भ से ही रेलों को स्टीम कोयले की सप्लाई अपर्याप्त रही । इसका कारण यह था कि उद्योगों और अन्य उपभोक्ताओं की मांगे एकाएक बहुत बढ़ गयीं और निर्यात सम्बन्धी वायदे भी पूरे करने पड़े । इसके परिणामस्वरूप रेलवे की आवश्यकताएं सम्पूर्णतः पूरी नहीं की जा सकीं । बिजली में कटौती करने के कारण उत्पादन गिर जाने से गर्मी के महीनों में स्थिति बिगड़ गयी और रेलों पर कर्मचारियों की गड़बड़ी के कारण अगस्त और सितम्बर, 1973 में स्थिति और खराब हो गयी और काफी छुटिटयां पड़ने के कारण अक्तूबर, 1973 में कोयला खदानों से स्टीम कोयला कम प्रस्तुत किया गया । हाल में असम की एक मुख्य खान में जो पूर्वोत्तर सीमा रेलवे को कोयला सप्लाई करती है, बाढ़ का पानी भर गया जिसके कारण उत्पादन कार्य रोक देना पड़ा ।

लीबिया से अशोधित तेल का आयात

210. **श्री भागीरथ भंवर** :

श्री एम० कतामुत्तु : क्या पेट्रोलियम और रसायन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने लीबिया से अशोधित तेल मंगाने के लिये समझौता किया है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसकी मुख्य बातें क्या हैं ।

पेट्रोलियम और रसायन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री शाहनवाज़ खां) : (क) और (ख) : जी हां । तेल के क्षेत्र में सहयोग किये जाने के संबंध में लिबियन अरब गणराज्य की सरकार तथा भारत सरकार के बीच एक करार हुआ है । इस करार में लिबिया से कच्चे तेल की सप्लाई, तेल के क्षेत्र में दोनों देशों के बीच तकनीकी सहयोग को दृढ़ बनाने तथा दोनों देशों में विशेषज्ञों एवं तकनीकी व्यक्ति मुहैया करने की व्यवस्था है ।

Representation made for starting Supreme Court Bench and High Court Benches

211. SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU:

SHRI S. A. MURUGANANTHAM:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently received representations for starting a Supreme Court bench and several Benches of High Courts; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE): (a) There has been no representation in the recent past for the setting up of a Bench of the Supreme Court. Representation have, however, been received for the establishment of Benches of certain High Courts.

(b) The Law Commission had opposed the setting up of Benches of High Courts at different centres in a State for the reason that this would lead to an impairment of the efficiency of the High Court with the inevitable consequence of lowering of standards of administration of justice. High Court arrears Committee has also held similar views on the subject.

Saving of aviation fuel by reducing the speed of aircraft

212. SHRI K. KODANDA RAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has advised the Ministries of Defence and Civil Aviation to study the possibilities of saving Aviation fuel by reducing the speed of their arcraft; and

(b) if so, what is the result of the study and the response of the above Ministries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is under examination of the concerned Ministries.

New thermal plants in Fifth Plan

213. SHRI K. KODANDA RAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has ruled out any new thermal plants in the Fifth Plan;

(b) if so, the reasons given by the Planning Commission; and

(c) whether the Vijayawada Super Thermal Station is to be shelved because of the Planning Commission's attitude?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDENSHWAR PRASAD): (a) and (b). A number of schemes for new thermal power stations are being considered for inclusion in the Fifth Five Year Plan whch is under finalisation by the Planning Commission.

(c) The scheme for installation of a thermal power station at Vijayawada with two 200 MW sets has been approved by the Planning Commission.

Representation Re: Inclusion of Vamna Puram Irrigation Project in Fifth Plan

214. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation dated the 3rd August, 1973 regarding the inclusion of Vamna Puram Irrigation Project in the Fifth Plan; and

(b) if so, the steps taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) and (b). No such representation was received by Government of India. The project report has also not been received so far from the Government of Kerala.

Irrigation Projects for Kerala in Fifth Plan

215. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) which are the main irrigation projects included in the Fifth Plan from the State of Kerala; and

(b) which are the present projects which are likely to be extended to the Fifth Plan and their present stage of work according to latest assessments?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) and (b). The Periyar Valley, Pamba, Kuttiadi, Chittarpuzha, Pazhassi, Kanhirapuzha and Kallada projects, work on which is already in hand, will be spilling over into the Fifth Plan. The progress of these projects is given in the satement laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-5668/73.] In their Fifth Plan proposals, the Government of Kerala have also proposed to take up work on new projects of Karapuzha, Attapady, Idamalayar, Chimoni-Mopli, Vamanapuram, Muvattupuzha, Kakkadavu and Kuriakutty. This Fifth Plan programmes have not yet been finalised.

Steps to Meet the Country's Requirements of Crude oil and Petroleum Products

216. SHRI DHAMANKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) how far the Mathura Refinery is expected to meet the need of the country for refining facilities;

(b) what are the present requirements of crude oil and petroleum products of our country, out of them how much is produced in India and what are the other sources and the amount involved in terms of foreign exchange; and

(c) whether any survey was undertaken to as assess the future needs of the country and how the Government propose to meet the requirements and attain self-sufficiency by way of exploration on land, off-shore and abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) The Mathura Refinery when completed will add 6 Million Tonnes to the refining capacity of the country.

(b) The requirement of crude oil for the year 1973-74 is estimated to be about 23 Million Tonnes of which just under 8 Million Tonnes is expected to be indigenously produced and the balance imported. In addition about 4.4 Million Tonnes of Refined products are likely to be imported. The source of imports is West Asian Gulf comprising Iran, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iraq. In addition, kerosene oil is being imported from USSR also. The foreign exchange involved for import of crude is approximately Rs. 300 crores and for import of products Rs. 131 crores.

(c) Based on the estimates of requirements for petroleum products, the Task Force on Oil Refining has recommended a refining capacity of 43 Million Tonnes to be achieved by the end of the Fifth Plan. In view of sharp and continuous increases in the price of imported crude oil it is proposed to curb the consumption of petroleum products to the extent feasible and thus reduce the product requirements of the country. To increase the indigenous production of crude oil exploration for oil, on land and off-shore is being intensified. Exploration for oil abroad is also being taken up. Proposals are also under consideration for exploration in a few off-shore areas in collaboration with foreign parties on suitable terms.

Loss suffered due to agitation on Sholapur Division in August/September, 1973

217. SHRI DHAMANKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of loss suffered by the Exchequer as a result of the agitation during August/September, 1973 on the Sholapur Division of the South Central Railway for its merger with the Central Railway;

(b) the amount of damage to property, rolling stock etc., man-hours lost, loss in passenger traffic, loss in freight and other losses sustained; and

(c) when the Committee appointed to go into the causes of agitation is likely to formulate its findings and furnish a report?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) It is estimated that the Railways have suffered a loss of over Rupees one crore due to the agitation.

(b) (i) Loss on Passarger traffic . . . Rs.57 lakhs appx.

(ii) Loss on goods traffic . . . Rs.56 lakhs appx.

(iii) Tota loss of Railway property including damages, theft and pilferages etc. . . . Rs.62,000/-appx.

(iv) Loss of man hours 38,66,295

(c) The Committee has already met thrice i.e., on 1st September, 1973, 9 October, 1973, and 10th October, 1973 and has taken evidence from the various parties including Railway workers, Chambers of Commerce and public representatives. The deliberations of the Committee are still continuing and the next meeting is scheduled for 17th November, 1973. It is not possible at this stage to indicate the date when the Committee would formulate its findings and furnish a report.

Invocation of section 27 of the monopolies Act to restrict malpractices by certain companies

218. SHRI DHAMANKAR: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to undertake a study of the financial, production and market behaviour of companies running conglomerations of industries and trades so as to take firm steps against malpractices indulged in by certain companies, by invoking Section 27 of the Monopolies Act;

(b) when is such a study likely to commence and for how long; and

(c) in how many cases Section 27 of the Monopolies Act has been invoked so far?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA): (a) to (c). Reference of cases to the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission for enquiry under Section 27 of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act as to whether it is expedient in the public interest to make an order for the division of any trade of the undertaking by the sale of any part of the undertaking's assets thereof, or of the division of any undertaking or inter-connected undertakings into such number of undertakings as may be found justified. can be made only after the Central Government undertake a study of the working of undertakings falling within the ambit of Part (A) of Chapter III of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act in order to see whether there is any basis to form an opinion that their working is prejudicial to public interest, or has led to, or is leading to, or is likely to lead to, the adoption of monopolistic and/or restrictive trade

practices. Studies of this nature involving a large number of undertakings require considerable time and labour and, as such, the Central Government have not been able to refer any case to the Commission for inquiry so far. However, the matter is receiving attention of the Central Government.

Grant of concessions to Indigenous Drug Firms for their expansion

219. SHRI DHAMANKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a wide range of concessions are expected to be made in future to the indigenous Drug manufacturing companies to help them expand and if so, to what extent this will lead to curb the growth of foreign companies;

(b) whether any expansion programme is envisaged in a phased manner for Drugs and Pharmaceuticals;

(c) if so, whether the two public sector undertakings *viz.*, IDPL and the Hindustan Antibiotics with their present structure would be able to cope up with the expansion; and

(d) what steps would be taken to ensure the growth of Drugs and Pharmaceuticals in the country on a systematic and sound footing so that they are able to compete successfully with foreign companies not only in the internal market but also in the international market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) to (d). The Task Force set up by the Planning Commission on drugs and pharmaceuticals have submitted their report to the Planning Commission. The Report of the Task Force is engaging the attention of the Planning Commission. The Plan when finalised would take note of the targets during the Fifth Plan Period for expansion and growth of drugs and pharmaceuticals.

The specific measures adopted by Government to regulate the growth of the foreign sector and at the same time to encourage the development of the Indian sector of the industry are as follows:—

(i) The Indian sector of the industry is given preference in approval of manufacturing schemes;

(ii) Manufacture of increasing number of bulk drugs through public sector undertakings;

(iii) Industrial licences are usually not issued to foreign firms for producing formulations unless linked up with the production of bulk drugs;

(iv) The foreign firms are asked to take up production of bulk drugs from more basic stages and to make available a larger percentage of their bulk drugs production to non-associated formulators in the country as a condition for being permitted expansion in capacity for taking up new activity;

(v) Appropriate export obligations are usually imposed on foreign firms as a condition for permitting expansion in capacity or taking up new activity;

(vi) Progressive reduction of foreign equity participation with corresponding increase in the Indian shareholdings is imposed when they are allowed expansion of their manufacturing activities.

The production of drugs in the country which was of the order of Rs. 12 crores in 1948 increased to Rs. 58

crores in 1958, to Rs. 150 crores in 1965 and to Rs. 300 crores in 1971 and is estimated to exceed Rs. 350 crores this year.

The drugs turn-over of the public sector units in the last three years has been as follows which also shows a rapid growth indicating the capability of the public sector to sustain further growth:

(Rs. crores)

	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73
IDPL	10·30	15·55	19·60
HAL	6·20	7·28	8·57
Total	16·50	22·83	28·17

Location of two drugs units under I.D.P.L. during Fifth Plan

220. SHRIMATI BHARGAVI THANKAPPAN:

SHRI N. SREEKANTAN NAIR:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised the location of the two drugs units under Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. in the Fifth Plan.

(b) whether the claims of Kerala have been considered and one of the Units has been allotted to Kerala; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Setting up Fertiliser Plants during Fifth Plan in collaboration with Japan

221. SHRI R. V SWAMINATHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are considering a proposal to set up two fertiliser units in the country during the Fifth Five Year Plan with the collaboration of Japan;

(b) if so, whether any final agreement has been reached; and

(c) the names of places where these plants will be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) to (c). Five new fertilizer plants in the public sector are proposed to be set up during the Fifth Plan period. These plants are proposed to be located at Mathura (Uttar Pradesh), Bhatinda (Punjab), Panipat (Haryana), Paradeep Orissa) and Trombay (Maharashtra). Discussions are continuing with, among others, the Government of Japan in regard to the external assistance for our programme, which would be limited to supplies and services not available in India.

Shortage of fertilisers due to partial utilisation of capacity of plants of Fertilizer Corporation of India

222. SHRI D. D. DESAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen several reports that fertilizer shortage is due to partial utilisation of capacities by various plants of Fertilizer Corporation of India;

(b) what has been the burden of idle investment and the impact on

foreign exchange drain as well as internal agricultural produce and industries dependent on agricultural produce; and

(c) what steps Government have taken and are taking to end future problems and to improve fertilizer production in the existing plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b). In so far as the Fertilizer Corporation of India is concerned, its five operating units had between them a capacity of 3.76 lakh tonnes of nitrogen during 1972-73; this amounted to about 25.7 per cent of the capacity in operation during that year for the industry as a whole, i.e., 1.464 million tonnes of nitrogen. The production from the FCI. units was 2.76 lakh tonnes of nitrogen, amounting to about 26 per cent of the all-India production. The overall capacity utilisation of the FCI units during 1972-73 was as high as 73 per cent, despite the production losses suffered due to lower level of availability of power at Nangal, power and labour problems at Gorakhpur, technological problems of the old and aging plant at Sindri.

The total fertilizer consumption during 1972-73 was 1.83 million tonnes in terms of nitrogen, as against an overall production of 1.06 million tonnes of nitrogen by all the operating units including those of the FCI; the gap had, therefore to be filled by imports.

(c) The following are some of the main steps being taken to improve the utilisation of capacity of the various fertilizer units:

(i) Repairs and renovations of the various sections at Sindri.

(ii) Implementation of the Sindri Rationalisation project to replace Rajasthan gypsum.

(iii) Implementation of the Sindri Modernisation project to replace coke/coke oven gas with fuel oil.

(iv) Debottlenecking of the Urea and NPK plants at Trombay.

(v) Supplementing gas availability for ammonia/methanol production at Trombay.

(vi) Implementing a Nangal expansion project to replace use of electricity by fuel oil for the production of ammonia.

(vii) A debottlenecking project at Gorakhpur to utilize more fully the installed spare equipment.

(viii) Measures to overcome technological constraints in some of the sections of Udyogamandal unit of F.A.C.T.

(ix) Setting up facilities for supplementing the availability of gas for production of ammonia at Rourkela.

(x) Implementing a scheme for changing over the feedstock from lignite to fuel oil at Neyveli.

पांचवीं योजना में उत्तर प्रदेश के बुन्देलखन्ड और झांसी जिलों में अतिरिक्त भूमि की सिंचाई

223. **डा० गोविन्द दास रिछारिया :** क्या सिंचाई और विद्युत मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) आगामी पांचवीं योजना के दौरान उत्तर प्रदेश में विशेषकर बुन्देलखण्ड और झांसी जिलों में कितनी अतिरिक्त भूमि की सिंचाई करने का विचार है ;

(ख) इस प्रयोजन के लिये बुन्देलखण्ड में क्या कार्यवाही की जा रही है ; और

(ग) इस संबंध में कितनी धनराशि खर्चकरने का विचार है ?

सिंचाई और विद्युत् मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री सिद्धेश्वर प्रसाद) : (क) से (ग). पांचवी योजनाअवधि के दौरान उत्तर प्रदेश में संतत तथा नई बृहद् और मध्यम सिंचाई स्कीमों से 20.05 लाख हैक्टेयर की अतिरिक्त शक्यता उत्पन्न होने की संभावना है। इसमें से राज्य के बुन्देलखण्ड क्षेत्र में 0.81 लाख हैक्टेयर की शक्यता उत्पन्न होने की संभावना है। झांसी जिले में 0.21 लाख हैक्टेयर की शक्यता उत्पन्न होने की संभावना है। इस उद्देश्य के लिये राज्य की पांचवी पंचवर्षीय योजना में शामिल करने के लिये एक बृहद् तथा 12 मध्यम सिंचई स्कीमों का प्रस्ताव रखा गया है। पांचवी योजना अवधि के दौरान बुन्देलखण्ड क्षेत्र में संतत तथा नई स्कीमों के लिये योजना आयोग के बृहद् तथा मध्यम सिंचाई और बाढ़ नियंत्रण संबंधी कार्यकारी दल द्वारा 53.7 करोड़ रु० के परिव्यय का सुझाव दिया गया है। राज्य की पांचवी पंचवर्षीय योजना को अभी अंतिम रूप नहीं दिया गया है।

Electrification of Villages of West Bengal and Assam

224. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) how many villages of West Bengal and Assam have been electrified or benefited through rural electrification schemes during the years 1971 and 1972; and

(b) the total amount allotted for rural electrification schemes in the Fourth Plan for West Bengal and how much of it has been spent so far?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) Details of villages electrified in West Bengal and Assam during the years 1971-72 and 1972-73 are given below:—

Year	West Bengal	Assam
1971-72 (1-4-71 to 31-3-72)	362	52
1972-73(1-4-72 to 31-3-73)	2209	151

(b) A provision of Rs 10 crores was made for rural electrification in West Bengal during the Fourth Plan against this an expenditure of Rs. 6.83 crores was incurred during the first three years of the Fourth Plan *i.e.* upto 1971-72. An expenditure of Rs. 4.50 crores is anticipated during the remaining period of the Fourth Plan.

एल० पी० गैस एजेन्सियों का आवंटन करने का मानदंड

225. **श्री अरविन्द एम० पटेल :**

श्री वेकारिया :

क्या **पैट्रोलियम और रसायन** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) नियमों के अनुसार एल० पी गैस ऐजेंसियां कौन प्राधिकारी आवंटित करता है ;

(ख) एजेन्ट की नियुक्ति इण्डियन आयल करता है अथवा रक्षा विभाग के रीसैटिलमेंट अधिकारी करते हैं ; और

(ग) एल० पी० गैस एजेन्सियों का आवंटन करने संबंधी नियम किस तारीख से लागू किये गये थे ?

पैट्रोलियम और रसायन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री शाहनवाज खां): (क) रक्षा मंत्रालय पुर्नवास महानिदेशालय के सिफारिशों पर अपंग रक्षा सनिकों, उनकी विधवाओं लड़ाई में मारे गये अथवा लापता सैनिकों के आश्रितों को भारतीय तेल निगम की एल० पी० जी० की डीलरशिप देने में तरजीह दी जाती है।

(ख) रक्षा मंत्रालय, पुर्नवास महा-निदेशालय से प्राप्त नामाकनों के आधार पर भारतीय तेल निगम द्वारा नियक्ति पत्र जारी किये गये।

(ग) उपरोक्त पद्धति 28-12-71 से प्रभावी है।

Criteria for allotment of L P Gas Agencies by the Indian Oil Corporation

226. SHRI ARVIND M. PATEL:
SHRI D. P. JADEJA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted by the Indian Oil for giving the L.P. Gas agencies;

(b) whether preference is given to Co-operative Institutions or to the ex-Servicemen; and

(c) what are the rules under which preference is given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) to (c). In accordance with the present policy of the Indian Oil Corporation, approved by the Government, IOC's LPG distributorships are awarded preferentially to the disabled defence personnel, widows/dependents of those killed on duty or missing in action and ex-Servicemen, on the recommendations made by the Director General of Resettlement, Ministry of Defence. Co-operative Institutions are not given any priority at present under this scheme. These are however considered in special cases only where an agency has to be awarded under special circumstances outside the scope of the defence scheme. Appointment letters for the agency are issued by the Indian Oil Corporation Selection of the agents is made by the Directorate General of Resettlement, Ministry of Defence, on the basis of the specified priorities from amongst the various categories of defence personnel as mentioned above.

Proposal for reopening of Narmada water dispute between Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh

227. SHRI ARVIND M. PATEL:
SHRI VEKARIA:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for re-opening the Narmada Water dispute between Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PARSAD): (a) and (b). While the adjudication proceedings on the Narmada Dispute before the Tribunal were in progress, the Chief Ministers of the four States concerned met in July, 1973, and agreed on the allocations of water for Maharashtra and requested the Prime Minister to give a decision in regard to the allocation of the balance water between Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat and in regard to the height of the Navagam Dam. The concerned States have since presented their respective cases to the Prime Minister. The decision of the Prime Minister is awaited.

Gujarat Chief Minister's request for early settlement of Narmada River Waters Dispute

228. SHRI ARVIND M. PATEL:

SHRI VEKARIA:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gujarat Chief Minister has approached the Central Government for the early settlement of Narmada River Water dispute; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Central Government in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) There have been representations from the concerned States for early settlement of the Narmada River Water Dispute.

(b) While the adjudicating proceedings on the Narmada Dispute before the Tribunal were in progress, the Chief Ministers of the four States concerned met in July, 1972 and requested the Prime Minister to give a decision in regard to the allocation of water between Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat and in regard to the height of the Navagam Dam. The concerned States have since presented their respective cases to the Prime Minister. The decision of the Prime Minister is awaited.

Replacement of Konkan Railway Project by Ratnagiri-Kolhapur and Karad-Chiplun Railway Project

229. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a decision has been taken to replace the Konkan Railway Project by Ratnagiri-Kolhapur and Karad-Chiplun Railway projects;

(b) whether even the earth work on the 108 Km. Apta-Dasgaon route of the Konkan Railway project, initiated as scarcity work, has been stopped; and

(c) if so, whether the Konkan Railway project has been totally discarded?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) No.

(b) Yes.

(c) No.

Expert advice on use of Cement Concreate in Tirali Dam in Swantwadi Taluk of Ratnagiri, Distt. (Maharashtra)

230. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the experts have recommended that the Tirali Dam in Swantwadi Taluk of Ratnagiri District in Maharashtra should not consist of earth work but of cement concrete in the interest of safety of the dam; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed by Government to ensure the safety of the dam?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) The Government of Maharashtra have reported that the project studies for Tirali are still in hand and there has been no expert advice according to which preference is to be given to a concrete dam over an earth dam.

(b) Does not arise at this stage.

Collision between Goods Trains near Hadapsar Station in September, 1973

231. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the strike by the Railway employees of the Sholapur Division in the month of September, 1973, the Indian Territorial Army personnel were made to run the skeleton goods train service;

(b) whether as a result of the running of this skeleton service by personnel of the Territorial Army, there was a collision between goods trains near Hadapsar Station, resulting in the death of two jawans; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken or proposed to be taken to avoid the recurrence of such accidents?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) Yes.

(b) There was a collision but not as a result of running of skeleton service by personnel of the Territorial Army.

(c) An enquiry into the accident is in process Action considered necessary will be taken when the findings of the enquiry are available.

Assurance given for inclusion of Sholapur Division in Central Railway Zone

232. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assurance was given to Members of Parliament and the Action Committee of the Railway employees from the Sholapur Division regarding the demand for the inclusion of this Division in Central Railway Zone; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to implement the assurances given?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Alleged bungling by I. O C in the matter of marketing of Transformer Oil produced by Nagpal Ambadi Petroleum Refining Company

233. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the alleged bungling by I. O. C. in the matter of marketing of transformer oil produced by the Nagpal Ambadi Petroleum Refining Company; and

(b) if so, whether Government have ordered any investigation into the dealing of the Marketing Division of I. O. C. with the Nagpal Ambadi Petroleum Company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) Some aspects of the IOC's agreement with M/s Nagpal Ambadi Petroleum Refining Company and marketing of Transformer Oil produced by the latter, have been brought out in the Audit Report of Indian Oil Corporation (Marketing Division) for the year 1970-71

(b) The matter is at present under examination of the parliamentary Committee on Public Undertakings.

Prices of Petroleum Products and Rationing of Petrol

234. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE:

SHRI JAGANNATH MISHRA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the prices of petroleum products now fixed; and

(b) whether there is any move to ration petrol supplies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-5669/73.]

(b) There is no move for the time being to introduce rationing of Motor Spirit.

Loss due to suspension of construction work on Western Kosi Canal as a result of controversy over payment of compensation for Lands

235. SHRI SHASHI BHUSHAN:

SHRI SHRIKISHAN MODI:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been invited to the news-item published in the 'Hindustan Times' dated the 11th September, 1973 under the heading "India losing Rs. 10,000 a day on Kosi project"; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and the steps taken to improve the situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Bihar, whose attention was drawn to this news item have stated that the work on the construction of Western Kosi Canal had not been suspended but it had been slowed down due to the rainy season and that the question of loss of Rs 10,000 per day did not arise.

There was, however, some delay in taking possession of land due to the demand for higher compensation by the owners of the land in Nepal territory. This has since been settled.

Robberies in Railway Trains during the last six months

236. SHRI SHASHI BHUSHAN:

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY.

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of train robberies reported during the last six months on Indian Railways;

(b) the number of robbers apprehended and the action taken against them; and

(c) whether goods recovered have been restored to the owners?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library.* See No. LT-5670/73]

News-item 'Railon Men Hatyayen Rokane Ki Vyavasthan Adhik Safal Nahin'

237. SHRI SHASHI BHUSHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a news report appearing in the *Nav Bharat Times* dated the 12th September, 1973 under the heading 'Railon men hatyayen rokane ki vyavastha adhik safal nahin'; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and the steps proposed to be taken to improve the situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) Yes.

(b) Figures showing the number of cases of murders on all Indian Railways during the years 1971, 1972 and 1973 upto (June) are given below:—

Year	No. of cases of murder
1971	123
1972 . . .	91
1973 (upto June) . . .	63

The Government is alive to the problem and the following steps are being taken for the prevention of crimes against Passengers travelling in trains:—

(1) To the extent possible Government Railway Police escorts are provided on all important night passenger trains to ensure safety of passengers in the affected areas.

(2) R. P. F. staff have been directed to extend active cooperation to Government Railway Police and Civil Police in tracking down criminals responsible for such incidents on the Railways.

(3) Clase liaison is maintained with the Government Railway Police and Civil Police to keep strict surveillance over bad characters operating in the sections.

(4) Concerned at the growing incidence of crime affecting passengers like murder, robbery and dacoity in trains/railway premises in the States of U. P., Bihar and West Bengal Minister of Railways addressed letters to the Chief Ministers of these States on 2-11-72 and requested them to provide armed guards on important passenger trains particularly in badly affected areas. The Minister of Railways also held a high level meeting with the Home Ministers and high officials of some States on 21-3-73 in this connection so that greater security could be provided to the travelling public. As a result of this meeting a working group consisting of senior officers of Central and State Governments has been formed to thoroughly examine the various suggestions made at the meeting and to suggest measures for effectively tackling the problem.

The working group has so far held one meeting at which it was unanimously agreed that there is an urgent need to augment the strength of Government Railway Police. The State Governments, however, expressed their inability to meet this additional expenditure and desired that the Central Government should bear the cost of expenditure on this augmentation by giving grants-in-aid. Accordingly a memorandum was submitted to the Finance Commission for consideration.

Prosecutions Launched against Firms for Violating the Provisions of Companies Act

238. SHRI SHASHI BHUSHAN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the information regarding prosecutions launched against firms for violating the provisions of the Companies Act during 1972-73 has since been collected; and if so, the particulars thereof;

(b) the results of prosecutions launched against firms for violating the provisions of the Companies Act during the last three years; and

(c) if the reply to part (a) above be in negative, the further time likely to be taken in collecting the required information?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA): (a) Yes, Sir. A statement indicating *inter-alia* the various sections of the Act under which prosecutions were launched during 1972-73 is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-5671/73].

(b) The results of prosecutions launched during the last three years have been published in the annual reports on the working and administration of the Companies Act for the respective years which have been laid before the Parliament.

(c) Does not arise.

Oil Exploration by India in Iraq

239. SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAKODKAR:

SHRI SHRIKISHAN MODI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether oil exploration in the area given to India in Iraq is to begin this winter; and

(b) the total quantity of oil which India hopes to tap from that area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Until seismic survey and exploratory drilling are carried out, it is difficult to give a precise indication about the total quantity of oil which may be available from the area.

Import of Machinery from USSR for Mathura Oil Refinery

240. SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAKODKAR:

SHRI SHRIKISHAN MODI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India will import machinery and equipment from the Soviet Union for the proposed seven million-tonne Refinery at Mathura;

(b) whether experts of the two countries met in late September, 1973 and finalised the list of equipment; and

(c) if so, the nature and quantity of equipment to be imported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) The Protocol signed between the Governments of India and USSR on 20th July, 1973, envisages co-operation between the two countries in the construction of the Mathura Refinery with a capacity of 6 million tonnes. USSR would supply to India such of the equipment and materials which cannot be obtained in India in time for the commissioning of this Refinery.

(b) and (c). In accordance with the above Protocol, Soviet Organisation has deputed a team of Russian Experts on 19th October, 1973 for the finalisation of Memorandum of Instructions for designing the Refinery and the same is expected to be finalised by the end of November, 1970. The nature and quantum of equipment and materials to be supplied by Soviet Union will be known only after the preparation of the Detailed Project Report which is expected to reach by January, 1975.

Setting up of Power Houses for Railways

241. SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAKODKAR:

SHRI SHRIKISHAN MODI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high-powered Technical Committee has been appointed by Government regarding the setting up of Power Houses for Railways;

(b) whether the Committee has made any recommendations; and

(c) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD SHAFI QURESHI): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Taking into consideration the serious shortage of power supply in the Eastern region, the Committee has recommended that additional power houses may be constructed by the Railways at 2 or 3 points along their electrified section and run them interconnected with State Electricity Board's net work for economical operation.

Use of Coal for Power Production

242. SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAKODKAR:

SHRI SHRIKISHAN MODI:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering the question of shifting from oil to coal for power production; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the delay in not shifting to coal?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) and (b). The Government of India have taken a policy decision that consumption of oil and oil products for power generation should be reduced to the minimum in view of the dependence on imports for oil and oil products, and its foreign exchange and other implications. In pursuance of this, it has been decided that the 4 major thermal power stations viz. Ahmedabad and Dhuvaran in Gujarat, Trombay in Maharashtra and Barauni in Bihar, where oil is used at present as primary fuel, should be converted to use coal as the primary fuel. The power station authorities have been requested to take up conversion of their plant and equipment to use coal as primary fuel. Such conversion of power stations involves re-designing of boilers, installation of ash-handling plants, locating suitable sources of coal supply and transportation of such coal to the power stations, etc. The necessary steps in this regard are being planned and finalised.

Restructure of Power Supply Industry

243. SHRI SHRIKISHAN MODI:

SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAKODKAR:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to restructure the power supply industry; and

(b) if so, the main features of the proposal?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) and (b). Proposals for restructuring of the power supply industry are under consideration.

Continuance of Foreign Oil Companies

244. SHRI JAGANNATH MISHRA:

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU.

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision about the continuance of foreign oil companies has since been taken by Government.

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof; and

(c) if not, when a decision in the matter is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) Not yet, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) By the end of this year.

Supply of Imported Raw Materials by S.T.C. to Drug Industry at Higher Prices

245. SHRI JAGANNATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether imported raw materials are being supplied by the S.T.C. to the Drug Industry at considerably higher prices:

(b) whether this has resulted in the non-utilisation of its capacity to a large extent; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to make the raw materials available to the Industry at reasonable prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) No, Sir. The sale price for distribution of goods to actual users is determined in accordance with a formula approved by Chief Controller of Imports and Exports in pursuance of paras 74 and 75 of Volume I of Import Trade Control Policy for the year 1973-74.

(b) No case of non-utilisation of capacity due to higher prices charged by S.T.C. has been reported to the Government.

(c) Does not arise.

Solution of Cauvery Waters Dispute

246. SHRI JAGANNATH MISHRA:

SHRI D. B. CHANDRA GOWDA:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any solution of the Cauvery Waters dispute has since been found; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) and (b). The matter is still under discussion with the concerned States.

Delay in Execution of Work relating to Off-Shore Drilling

247. SHRI JAGANNATH MISHRA:

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been considerable delay in the execution of work relating to the off-shore drilling;

(b) whether Government have suffered huge losses on this account; and if so,, the total loss suffered till date; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to accelerate the work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The delay was mainly due to two reasons, namely, six months' delay in the delivery of the "Sagar Samrat" and bad weather conditions in the Bombay-High area, shortly after the arrival of "Sagar Samrat".

However, Government have not suffered any avoidable loss since liquidated damages have been collected from the suppliers of "Sagar Samrat" for the delay in its delivery. The delay due to bad weather conditions was beyond the control of the ONGC. ONGC had to incur certain expenditure during the period of the delay and this expenditure amounted to $7000 per day as payment to Drilling Contractor and for supply boats and crew boat. 20 per cent of the expenditure was, however, in Rupees.

(c) Drilling of the first exploratory well in the deeper waters with the aid of this platform has already commenced on the 11th October, 1973. The Commission has, moreover, prepared a plan of offshore drilling operations for the next two or three years

Power cut in U.P.

248. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what further steps have been taken to restore power cut in U.P.;

(b) whether the request of the U.P. Government to import two generators for Obra Power Station has been agreed to by the Centre; and

(c) if so, whether this is being imported by the B.H.E.L. Hardwar, and when the sets are likely to reach India?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) In order to assist Uttar Pradesh to mitigate the power shortage in the State, neighbouring states have agreed to supply power to the extent of 150 MW to U.P. The commissioning of additional generating sets in the Obra Thermal Power Station is also being expedited as much as possible.

(b) and (c). Import of two generating sets for the Obra Power Station has been approved. The Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board has been advised to arrange for the import through M/s. BHEL. Arrangements in this regard are being finalised between the U.P.S.E.B. and BHEL.

Restoration of Power cut in States

249. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE:

SHRI S. N. MISRA:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what further steps have been taken to restore power cut in the various States; and

(b) whether the power position has improved; and if so, to what extent?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) and (b). With the onset of monsoon and hydro reservoirs getting filled up, the power supply position in the varous States has generally improved. However, the energy availability is not adequate in the States of U.P., Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh and D.V.C. area where restrictions are still in force. In the case of D.V.C., owing to the outage of the units in the thermal power stations, there has been short supply in the area.

Steps have been taken to expedite repair of the generating sets and bring them into service expeditionsly and action has been taken to expedite commissioning of the generating units which are under construction.

The extent of improvement in energy availability since May last is shown in the attached statement.

Statement

Statement showing the extent of improvement in energy availability since May, 1973.

Name of States	*All figures in million units/day*	
	Energy availability.	
	May 1973	November, 1973
	Surplus (+) Deficit (—)	
Northern Region		
Haryana	(—)1·96	(—)1·70
Himachal Pradesh	(—)0·23	(—)0·14
Jammu & Kashmir	(—)0·23	(—)0·40
Punjab	(—)1·27	(—)0·54
Rajasthan	(—)1·38	(—)0·10
Uttar Pradesh	(—)4·55	(—)7·00
Delhi	(—)0·15	
Chandigarh	(—)0·06	(—)0·03
Nangal Fertilizer	..	..
TOTAL	(—)9·83	(—)9·91
Western Region		
Gujarat		
Madhya Pradesh	(—)0·55	
Maharashtra	(—)7·10	..
TOTAL	(—)7·65	..
Southern Region		
Andhra Pradesh	(—)3·21	(—)0·47
Kerala	..	(+)1 14
Karnataka	(—)1·80	(—)2·20
Tamil Nadu	(—)9·45	(—)3·37
TOTAL	(—)14·46	(—)4·90
Eastern Region		
Bihar	(—)0·06	(—)0·90
West Bengal	(—)0·35	(—)0·97
D.V.C.	(—)0·79	
Orissa	(—)1·60	..
TOTAL	(—)2·80	(—)1·87
Northern Eastern Region	(—)0·06	..

Hindustan Lever Limited

250. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that the Board of Directors of Hindustan Lever Limited, which consists entirely of Professional Managers, whose appointment and tenure are at the mercy of Unilever, London; and if so, what steps Government propose to take so as to prevent exploitation of India at the hands of Unilever, London;

(b) whether departure is being made from the 40:60 equity ratio laid down in the Foreign Exchange Regulation Bill in the case of Hindustan Lever Limited; and if so, on what grounds; and

(c) whether as reported in the Press, a probe is being made into the affairs of the Hindustan Lever Limited at the instance of the Company Law Department?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA): (a) The appointment of managerial personnel and their remuneration are governed by the provision of sections 269, 388 and 310 of the Companies Act, 1956 and require the approval of the Central Government.

(b) The Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 will come into force with effect from 1st January, 1974. Section 29 of the Act envisages that the company with more than 40 per cent non-resident shareholding will have to obtain the permission of the Reserve Bank for continuance of their existing business activities. The question of making a departure in the case of Hindustan Lever Limited does not arise.

(c) An inspection under section 209(4) of the Companies Act, 1956 has been ordered in the case of Hindustan Lever Limited.

Shortage of Kerosene Oil and increase in its prices

251. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE:

SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a tremendous shortage of kerosene oil in the country;

(b) whether price of kerosene oil has been increased; and

(c) if so, what further steps have been taken to supply kerosene oil both in rural and urban areas at reasonable rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) The overall kerosene availability in the country is more than adequate to meet the total requirements. However, in the past substantial quantities of kerosene were diverted into High Speed Diesel Oil and this created local shortages particularly in smaller towns and rural areas.

(b) The following increases in the price of Kerosene have been made:—

	Superior Kerosene (Rs/KL)
(1) Due to increase in the cost of product (effective 3-11-73)	77·54
(2) Due to increase in the rate of excise duty at 29·50 C. (effective 9-11-73) . . .	98·64
Total increase . . .	176·18

(c) With the near equalisation of prices between kerosene and HSD,

Oil Companies are taking steps to make kerosene oil available from such of the retail outlets of the companies which are suitably located to augment kerosene oil supplies in addition to the Oil Companies' normal network of agents.

Loss suffered by Northern and Western Railways due to Loco Stir

252. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loss suffered by the Northern and Western Railways as a result of the recent Loco Stir; and

(b) the steps being taken by Government to make up the loss?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) The loss suffered by the Northern and Western Railways due to recent strike by the loco running staff is estimated to be Rs. 2.70 crores appx.

(b) It is not possible to make up the loss.

Trains to be run with Diesel Engines in place of Steam Engines

253. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the number of trains proposed to be run with diesel engines in place of steam engines on the Northern and Western Railways?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): It is proposed to deselise in the near future 51 Up/52 Dn Sealdah—Jammu Tawi Express between Mughalsarai and Jammu Tawi on the Northern Railway and 31 Up/32 Dn Delhi—Ahmedabad Janata Express between Ajmer and Delhi on the Western and Northern railways.

Karnali Hydel Project

255. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a joint panel of India and Nepal has been constituted for the giant Karnali Hydel Project; and

(b) if so, the amount of power to be purchased by India annually and the area where this power will be used?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) The question of setting up of a high powered 'Committee of Direction' for the Karnali hydro electric Project with appropriate representatives from India is under consideration with the Govt. of Nepal.

(b) The amount of power to be purchased annually by India from the Karnali Project and allied matters are still to be negotiated with the Govt. of Nepal. The power is expected to be utilised in the Northern region.

Allotment of Railway Land under 'Grow More Food' Scheme for Five Years instead of One Year at a time

256. SHRI SOMCHAND SOLANKI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present practice under which Railway land is allotted to applicants on yearly basis under "Grow More Food" scheme has certain drawbacks in that the Railways do not get the higher returns;

(b) whether the Railway administration proposes to lease the Railway land under "Grow More Food" scheme for five years instead of one year; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) According to the existing procedure, to the extent possible, surplus railway land in between stations is handed over to the State Government for its eventual licensing for Grow More Food purposes. Only such of the land which the State Government have not taken over, is licensed directly by the Railway Administration initially for a term of one or two years for cultivation purposes which can be renewed to the original licensee, if he has abided by the terms of licence and after taking into consideration the tenency law of the State Government concerned. No drawbacks have been found in the existing procedure.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

Financial outlay sought by Bihar for construction of Western Kosi Canal

257. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position with regard to the financial outlays sought by Bihar Government and approved or to be approved by the Centre for constructing the Western Kosi Canal during the current and coming financial year and for the whole Fifth Plan period;

(b) whether it is proposed to examine the construction of Dam of Kamala near Jai Nagar at the crossing point of Western Kosi canal to do away with the problem of silting in the canals and ending the Kamala floods by utilising the available Kamala waters for feeding the Western Kosi canal system; and

(c) if so, the main features of the proposal?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PARSAD): (a) The estimated cost of the Western Kosi Canal is Rs. 41.62 crores. The Government of Bihar have stated that the provision for the Western Kosi Canal in the State Plan for 1973-74 is Rs. 150 lakhs. In addition, the Government of India have agreed to provide Rs. 250 lakhs as special assistance outside the State Plan ceiling to Bihar Government to meet the cost of construction of the portion of the Western Kosi Canal lying in Nepal.

The State Government have intimated that a provision of Rs. 6 crores has been made for the financial year 1974-75. A provision of Rs. 33.80 crores has been proposed by the State in the Fifth Plan. The Fifth Plan has not yet been finalised.

(b and (c). The Government of Bihar have no such proposal under their consideration. No suitable dam site has been located in the Indian territory.

The feasibility of providing a weir for serving as a level crossing at the point where the Western Kosi Canal crosses the Kamala river is under the examination of the State Government.

Extension of Broad Gauge lines from Samastipur to Raxaul via Darbhanga and Muzaffarpur via Motihari

258. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for the extension of the broad gauge lines from Samastipur to Raxaul via Darbhanga and from Muzaffarpur via Motihari has been finalised;

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof; and if not, the causes of delay; and

(c) what is the schedule for the beginning and completion of the extension of the broad gauge line via Darbhanga to Raxaual and of the metre gauge line from Jhajharpur to Laukaha?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI):(a) and (b). Engineering and traffic survey reports for the conversion of the Samastipur-Raxaul MG section to BG via Darbhanga or via Muzaffarpur are under examination. A decision on the conversion ,and the route to be adopted, will be taken after this examination is completed.

(c) In view of (a)&(b) above, schedule for the beginning and completion of the extension of the broad gauge via Darbhanga to Raxaul, cannot be indicated at this stage. For the Jhanjharpur-Laukahabazar M.G. rail link, the report of a final location engineering survey carried out by North Eastern Railway is under examination. A decision will be taken after this examination is completed.

Designing of Karnali Hydro Electric Project by India

259. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA:

SHRI P. VENKATA-SUBBAIAH:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether he asked the King of Nepal during the recent visit to India in October, 1973 to allow India to design the Karnali hydro electric project; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government of Nepal thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PARSAD): (a) and (b). During his discussions with His Majesty the King of Nepal in the middle of October, 1973, the then Minister of Irrigation and Power mentioned that India would be glad to be of any assistance to Nepal the investigation and preparation of the project report if His Majesty's Government so desired.

Complaint Against Heilgers Group of Jute Mills in West Bengal

260. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA:

SHRI MOHAMMAD ISMAIL:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaints regarding the Heilgers group of Jute Mills in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the nature of the complaints received; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In substance, the complaint alleges that Heilgers Private Limited sold its Shareholdings in North Brook Jute Company Limited to one Shri Ramgopal Ganeriwala, who is a speculator and does not care for the genuine interests of the company.

(c) It is understood that on 10th September, 1973, Heilgers Private Limited transferred 48,901 ordinary shares in North Brook Jute Company

Limited to four parties as per details given below:

Number of shares transferred	Name of party to whom transferred
535	Bhubandhar Tea Company Limited.
41551	Ramgopal Ganeriwala Pvt. Limited.
1000	Mr. Suresh Kumar Ganeriwala
1000	Mr. Ramgopal Ganeriwala.

A limited inspection of the two companies referred to above has been directed and further action, if found necessary, will be taken after examining the inspection reports.

Cases Decided by M.R.T.P. Commission under Section 21, 22 and 23 of the M.R.T.P. Act

262. SHRI E V. VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases so far considered and finally decided by the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission under Sections 21, 22 and 23 of the M.R. T.P. Act respectively; and

(b) the names of parties and the nature of industries in respect of which expansion of undertakings has been granted and the area/location thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA): (a) and (b). The Monopolies & Restrictive Trade Practices Commission does not take any final decisions on the proposals under sections 21, 22 and 23 of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act. The Central Government may refer to the Monopolies & Restrictive Trade Practices Commission any application under those sections where it is of opinion that no order can be made without a further inquiry by the Commission and it is the Central Government which passes a final order on each such application on receipt of the Commisson's report. 44 cases have so far been referred to the Monopolies & Restrictive Trade Practices Commission under sections 21, 22 and 23 of the M.R.T.P. Act. Information relating to the cases referred, reports received and the decisions taken thereon by the Central Government is contained in the statements 'A' and 'B' laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-5672/73.]

Generation of Electricity from Badarpur Thermal Power Plant

263. SHRI E. V. VIKHE PATIL: SHRI A. K. GOPALAN:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the unit of Badarpur Thermal Power Plant reported to have been completed recently has started working in full;

(b) if so, the amount of electricity generated and supplied to consumer Electricity Boards;

(c) when the other units of the project are likely to be completed; and

(d) whether there is any plan to change the design or capacity of the uncompleted units and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PARSAD): (a) Yes, Sir. The first 100 MW Unit at Badarpur Thermal Power Station has been commissioned and has already been tried upto full load (100 MW).

(b) The amount of electricity generated and supplied to the grid connecting to I. P. Station upto 11th November, 1973 is as follows:

(*i*) Energy generated 18.44 Million Units.

(*ii*) Energy Supplied 15.79 Million Units.

(c) The second unit of 100 MW is likely to be ready for complex trial runs by July, 1974 and the third unit 4 months thereafter.

(d) There is no such plan.

Threat of Strike by certain railway unions

264. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR:

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain Railway Unions have threatened to go on strike on 28th February, 1974; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) The All India Railwaymen's Federation in their General Council Meeting held at Hyderabad in the third week of October, 1973 is understood to have passed a resolution calling for an indefinite country-wide general strike from 27th February, 1974 after trying for a negotiated settlement.

(b) There has been and there will continue to be an exchange of view points between Government and organised labour at various forums. In fact, in addition to the normal permanent Negotiating Machinery and Joint Consultative Machinery meetings, special joint meetings with the All India Railwaymen's Federation and the National Federation of Indian Railwaymen are also being held.

Per capita consumption of electricity in India and in foreign countries

265. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the figures of *per capita* consumption of Electricity in India during 1970-71, 1971-72 and 1972-73;

(b) the corresponding *per capita* figures for all the States and Union Territories of India;

(c) the corresponding figures for the world *per capita* consumption and for some leading foreign countries; and

(d) whether Government are taking steps to bring backward States at par with the advanced States in this field during the Fifth Five Year Plan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) The *per capita* consumption of electricity for India during 1970-71, 1971-72 and 1972-73 was 90,94 and 97.2 kwh respectively.

(b) The *per capita* consumption of electricity for all the States and Union Territories during the above period is given in statement laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-5673/73.]

(c) The figures for the *per capita* consumption of power for the world and for some leading foreign countries for the year 1970 are given in Annexure II.

(d) Reduction of regional imbalances is one of the objectives of the Fifth Plan. The Power development programmes are being framed consistent with this objective.

Inadequate arrangements for passengers at Nangal Dam and Hoshiarpur Railway Stations

266. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the inadequate arrangements for the passengers at Nangal Dam and Hoshiarpur Railway Stations of Northern Railway have been brought to the notice of Government; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to provide necessary facilities at these two places?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) and (b). To meet the requirements of passenger traffic offering at Nangal Dam and Hoshiarpur Railway Stations, the facilities like raised platform with adequate covering, waiting accommodation by way of wating hall, upper class waiting room, adequate drinking water arrangements, proper arrangements for lighting, circulating area etc. already exist on each of the said stations. However, during the Informal Consultative Committee of Hon'ble Members of Parliament with the Northern Railway on 7th May 1973, it was stressed to give face-lift to Hoshiarpur Railway Station, accordingly the work has since been completed.

Defects in the working of generation units of Indraprastha Power Station in Delhi

268. SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF: SHRI R. S. PANDEY:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the last three-four months, two of DESU's five generation units at Indraprastha Power Station in Delhi developed trouble; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by Government in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) and (b). Of the five generating units at the Indraprastha Power Station, Delhi, one has been under a scheduled major overhaul since May, 1973. The remaining units have been functioning except for outages of short durations due to various mechanical/electrical faults that developed during their working. Thermal power generating plants have a large number of mechanical auxiliaries and sub-systems. It is well recognised that these are prone to develop faults. Recently, a Committee headed by Member (Thermal) of Central Water and Power Commission has gone into the question of failures and given a number of suggestions for minimising these by effecting a number of changes in procedures and systems. These are being attended to.

Silting problem of Kosi Barrage Scheme

269. SHRI MADHU LIMAYE: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether, when the Kosi Barrage Scheme was formulated the hydrological problems, including the vast problem of silting, were not examined in depth;

(b) whether clearance for projects like check dams and storage dams was not negotiated at the time with the Government of Nepal;

(c) whether the river bed and the level of land within the confines of the Kosi bunds is rapidly rising because of the silting-up process;

(d) whether within the next 15 years, Kosi will start overflowing the bunds and they will give way; and

(e) if so, the measures which Government propose to take to prevent this disaster?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) The Kosi Project was evolved after a detailed study of the hydrological and other aspects and careful investigations over a number of years.

(b) The revised Indo-Nepal Agreement on the Kosi Project provides that surveys and investigations of check dams and storage dams required for a complete solution of the Kosi problems shall in future be conducted in cooperation with His Majesty's Government of Nepal.

(c) to (e). The Kosi embankments were completed in 1959 and since then periodical surveys are being carried out to study the changes in the river bed. There has been no evidence of any alarming rise in the river bed level so far. The situation is being watched with a view to take appropriate measures as and when necessary.

Trains Cancelled due to Shortage of Coal

270. SHRI MADHU LIMAYE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of trains on the North Eastern. North Eastern Frontier, Eastern and other Railway zones have been cancelled in recent weeks due to shortage of coal;

(b) if the shortages are due to the failure of the Railways, what steps Government propose to take to remedy the situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) Yes. Cancellations during September and October, 1973 were however, confined to the Northern, North Eastern, Northeast Frontier, Southern and Western Railways.

(b) The shortages are not due to the failure of the Railways. From early this year, the supplies of steam coal to Railways have been inadequate. There was a spurt in demand for coal by industries and other consumers and for export and this had to be met equitably along with the needs of the Railways, within the overall availability of coal. The position had a further set-back in summer months when heavy power shedding in the Eastern Sector affected train movement in electrified sections and production in coal mines in the Bengal-Bihar fields. In August and September, 1973 there was further deterioration in loading due to loco running staff and carriage and wagon staff agitation followed by a spate of staff and public agitations on Eastern and South Eastern Railways. In October there was less offer of steam coal due to holidays enjoyed by colliery staff during Puja and Diwali. One of the main coal-mines in Assam supplying coal to N.F. Railway was flooded and suspended production. Close liaison is maintained with coal mining authorities for improving supplies of loco coal.

भाखड़ा नियंत्रण बोर्ड द्वारा "पिलर्स" के निर्माण के लिए ठेका दिया जाना

271. श्री महा दीपक सिंह शाक्य : क्या सिंचाई और विद्युत् मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या भाखड़ा नियंत्रण बोर्ड ने विभिन्न प्रकार के मीनार (पिलर्स) बनाने के लिये जनवरी, 1963 में 233 लाख रुपये का ठेका दिया था ;

(ख) क्या ठेकेदारों ने माल सप्लाई करने में ठेके की शर्तों का पालन नहीं किया जिसके कारण सरकार को भारी हानि उठानी पड़ी है ; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं और इस रकम को वसूल करने के लिये क्या कार्यवाही की गई है ?

सिंचाई और विद्युत् मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री सिद्धेश्वर प्रसाद) : (क) भाखड़ा दक्षिण तट विद्युत् परियोजना के अंतर्गत आने वाली 220 के० वी० पारेषण लाइनों के लिए अपेक्षित इस्पात स्तंभों की सप्लाई तथा उनके निर्माण के लिये बम्बई के मैसर्ज आल्कोक आशडान को 233 लाख रुपये की धनराशि का ठेका जनवरी, 1963 में पंजाब राज्य बिजली बोर्ड ने, भाखड़ा नियंत्रण बोर्ड की स्वीकृति से दिया था ।

(ख) और (ग) सुपुर्दगी कार्यक्रम को पूरा करने में ठेकेदार असमर्थ रहे ।

ठेके में निहित प्रावधानों के अनुसार जुर्माना करने के प्रश्न पर भाखड़ा प्रबंध बोर्ड द्वारा पहले विचार किया गया था और उन्होंने यह निर्णय लिया था कि जुर्माना लगाने के लिये पर्याप्त औचित्य नहीं है । बहरहाल, यह मामला पुनः विचार करने के लिये बोर्ड के समक्ष लाया जा रहा है ।

"आठ बैगन लूट लिए" शीर्षक से प्रकाशित समाचार

272. **श्री महा दीपक सिंह शाक्य** : क्या **रेल** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या उनका ध्यान 6 अगस्त के "नवभारत टाइम्स" में "आठ बैगन लूट लिये" शीर्षक से प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस मामले में सरकार द्वारा क्या कार्यवाही की गई है ?

रेल मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री मुहम्मद शफ़ी कुरेशी) : (क) और (ख) जी हां, 4-8-1973 को दक्षिण-मध्य रेलवे के डुंगिराला स्टेशन; यार्ड (गुड्स-रेलवे सुरक्षादल स्टेशन) में खड़े आठ माल डिब्बों में से लगभग 200 व्यक्तियों ने 20,700 रुपये के मूल्य के पारेषण लूट लिये । तेनाली के रेलवे सुरक्षा दल/सरकारी रेलवे पुलिस घटनास्थल की ओर तुरन्त चल पड़ी और 6,650 रुपये की चुरायी गयी सम्पत्ति बरामद कर ली और साथ ही 29 व्यक्तियों को गिरफ्तार कर लिया ।

तेनाली की सरकारी रेलवे पुलिस ने भारतीय दण्ड संहिता की धारा 461 395 के अधीन एक मामला दर्ज कर लिया है और जांच-पड़ताल जारी है ।

कानपुर जाने वाली गाड़ी में 2 अगस्त, 1973 को फरुखाबाद के निकट डकैती

273. **श्री महा दीपक सिंह शाक्य** : क्या **रेल** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या पूर्वोत्तर रेलवे के आगरा-लखनऊ सैक्शन में चलने वाली रेलगाड़ियों में लूट की घटनाएं होती रहती हैं ;

(ख) क्या दिनांक 4 अगस्त, 1973 के "नवभारत टाइम्स" में प्रकाशित समाचार के अनुसार फर्रुखाबाद से 20 किलोमीटर दूर कानपुर की ओर जाने वाली गाड़ी में 2 अगस्त, 1973 को डकैती हुई थी और क्या अपराधियों का पता लगाने एवं ऐसे अपराधों को रोकने में सरकार असमर्थ रही है ; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण है और इस बारे में क्या कार्यवाही की गई है ?

रेल मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री मुहम्मद शफ़ी कुरेशी) : (क) जी, नहीं। 1973 के दौरान अब तक पूर्वोत्तर रेलवे के आगरा-लखनऊ खण्ड पर चलने वाली गाड़ियों में डकैती के केवल एक मामले की रिपोर्ट हुई है। यह डकैती 31-7-73/1-8-73 को हुई।

(ख) (ग) 31-7-73/1-8-73 की रात को जब गाड़ी न० 116 डाउन कमालगंज और खुदागंज स्टेशनों के बीच जा रही थी तब कमालगंज स्टेशन पर तीसरे दर्जे के एक डिब्बे में सात बदमाश घुस गये थे और उन्होंने उस डिब्बे में यात्रा कर रहे एक मुसाफिर का सामान लूट लिया।

अब तक कुछ भी बरामद नहीं हुआ है और न कोई गिरफ्तारी की गयी है। फर्रुखाबाद की सरकारी रेलवे पुलिस ने भारतीय दण्ड संहिता की धारा 395/397 के अधीन एक मामला दर्ज कर लिया है और पुलिस द्वारा जांच हो रही है।

Increase in the Salary and Allowances of Judges of High Courts

274. SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to increase the salary and allowances of Judges of High Courts; and

(b) if so, the nature of such proposal and the date from which the same is intended to be given effect to?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE): (a) and (b). There is a widespread feeling that the terms and conditions of service of Judges of High Courts are not attractive enough for able members of the Bar to accept Judgeship. The matter is, therefore, under consideration of Government.

Vacancies in various High Courts

275. SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE:

DR. RANEN SEN:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the vacancies of Judges as on September, 1973, in the various High Courts in India;

(b) how long such vacancies have remained unfilled and what has been the reason for the delay in filling such vacancies;

(c) whether 12 vacancies of Judges of Allahabad High Court had remained unfilled for more than one and a half years; and

(d) if so, the reasons for failure to make the appointments?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE): (a) and (b). A statement giving the requisite information as on 11th November, 1973 is attached. Proposals to fill vacancies in certain High Courts have been received and are under consideration. Proposals to fill vacancies in other High Courts are awaited from the State authorities who have been reminded.

(c) and (d). It is a fact that certain vacancies in the Allahabad High Court remained unfilled for a fairly long period. This was due to the fact that proposals received from the State authorities had to be referred back to them more than once for reconsideration.

Statement

Name of the High Court	Vacancies	The date on which vacancy arose	
Allahabad .	Permanent Judge—4	1. 22-6-73 2. 19-7-73 3. 15-9-73 4. 6-11-73	
	Additional Judge—3	1. 12-12-72 2. July, 73 3. July, 73	(AN)
Andhra Pradesh .	Permanent Judge—1	22-8-73	
	Additional Judge—3	1. 10-6-73 2. 10-6-73 3. 10-6-73	
Bombay	Additional Judge—3	1. 13-7-72 2. 9-9-72 3. Oct., 73	
Calcutta	Additional Judge—4	1. Feb., 73 2. Aug., 73 3. 27-8-73 4. 27-8-73	(Newly created posts.)
Gauhati	Permanent Judge—1	10-9-73	
Gujarat	Permanent Judge—1	17-7-73	
Kerala	Permanent Judge—3	1. 21-5-73 2. 4-6-73 3. 17-7-73	
Madhya Pradesh .	Permanent Judge—1	19-8-73	
	Additional Judge—5	1. 15-4-72 2. Feb., 73 3. Feb., 73 4. Feb., 73 5. May, 73.	(Newly created posts.)
Madras .	Permanent Judge—3	1. 19-1-73 2. 15-6-73 3. 15-7-73	
	Additional Judge—3	1. 30-6-73 2. 30-6-73 3. 30-6-73	(Newly created posts.)
Mysore .	Permanent Judge—1	7-6-73	
	Additional Judge—1	24-4-73	
Orissa	Additional Judge—1	17-1-72	
Patna	Permanent Judge—2	1. 18-11-72 2. 7-3-73	
	Additional Judge—2	1. June, 72 2. June, 72	(Newly created posts.)

Name of the High Court	Vacancies	The date on which vacancy arose	
Punjab & Haryana	Permanent Judge—1	17-9-73	
	[Additional Judge—4	1. 22-8-72	(Newly created posts.)
		2. 19-12-72	
		3. 5-9-73	
		4. 5-9-73	
Rajasthan . .	Permanent Judge—2]	1. 14-2-73	
		2. 11-8-73	

Train Accidents during 1971 to 1973

276. SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been substantial increase in the number of train accidents in the country between November, 1971 and September, 1973;

(b) how many train accidents have taken place during the said period and what have been the causes thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken against persons responsible for such accidents?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) and (b). No During the period November, 1971 to September, 1973, there were 1510 train accidents in the categories of collisions, derailments, level crossing accidents and fire in trains on the Indian Government Railways against 1680 such accidents during the comparable period of November, 1969 to September, 1971. The causes of these 1510 train accidents are as under:—

Cause	No. of accidents
(i) Failure of Railway staff .	792
(ii) Failure of persons other than Railway staff . . .	271
(iii) Failure of railway equipment	251
(iv) Sabotage	14
(v) Accidental . . .	131
(vi) Cause could not be established	41
(vii) Cause not yet finalised .	10
TOTAL	1510

(c) 817 Railway staff held responsible for these accidents have so far been punished as follows:—

(i) Removal/Dismissal from Service	18
(ii) Reduction either in the lower grade or in the same grade .	123
(iii) Withholding of increments for varying periods . .	532
(iv) Withholding promotions .	2
(v) Censure/Warning] . .	79
(vi) Withholding of passes and P. T. Os	61
(vii) Fines	12
TOTAL . .	817

Commencement and Completion of underground Railway in Calcutta

277. SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) when the work of construction of underground Railway in Calcutta is expected to commence and to be completed; and

(b) what steps are proposed to be taken for supply of power for running the proposed underground Railway in view of acute shortage of power in West Bengal?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) The construction work of Calcutta underground Railway has already been commenced. The Project is expected to be completed by 1979.

(b) Consequent on the recent widespread power shortage and resultant power failures and load sheddings in the Eastern Region affecting Railway operation, a high level Technical Committee was appointed to go into the problem of power supply and recommend remedial measures on a long term basis. This Committee has recommended setting up of Railways' Captive Power stations along the electrified sections.

The Railways in consultation with the Planning Commission are considering putting up a captive power house in West Bengal. The actual location has not yet been decided.

Electrification of villages in West Bengal

278. SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) how many villages in West Bengal have been electrified since March, 1972,

(b) whether there is any proposal to electrify 10000 villages within December, 1973;

(c) the estimated requirement of power in West Bengal by the end of March, 1974 and the extent of shortfall in meeting this requirement; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to augment the supply of power in West Bengal?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PARSAD):(a) From April, 1972 to October, 1973 4,362 villages had been electrified in West Bengal.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The estimated requirement of power in West Bengal (excluding loads served by D.V.C.) during 1973-74 is 906 MW. It is assessed that there would only be a marginal shortfall of 62 MW.

(d) In order to meet the growing needs of power in the State, steps have been taken to augment the generating capacity. Besides 4 units of 120 MW each at Santaldih, Bandel Thermal extension (2x200MW) and Kolaghat Thermal Station (3x200MW) have been sanctioned for implementation.

Withdrawal of Alarm Chain facilities from Trains

279. SHRI DEVINDER SINGH GARCHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the facility of alarm chain has been withdrawn from most of the trains in the country; and

(b) if so, whether some alternative is being provided for the benefit of genuine commuters?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) At present about 625 trains have been blanked off to prevent stoppage of trains by the miscreants by misuse of alarm chain apparatus. The position is, however, reviewed periodically to examine the necessity of continuance of blanking off the trains.

(b) No alternative measures for enabling train being stopped by the genuine passengers have been found practicable. However, the Ladies compartments and full Postal Vans are not blanked.

Indianisation of the Board of Directors of M/s Larsen & Toubro Limited

280. SHRI DEVINDER SINGH GARCHA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for asking the firm Larsen & Toubro Ltd. to totally Indianise their Board of Directors and also to appoint an Indian as managing director;

(b) whether the needful has since been done; and

(c) whether there are many other firms in similar position?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA): (a) The suggestion for Indianisation of the management control is based on the consideration that the management control vests mainly with foreign nationals, though the foreign shareholdings slightly exceeds 3 per cent of the shares in the company.

(b) The company has proposed to appoint four Indian Executives as Executive Directors, and has also invited two nominees of financial institutions which hold substantial shares in the company, to join its Board of Directors.

The company has been informed that two expatriate Deputy Managing Directors who are due for retirement on the 31st March, 1974, should not be appointed in the company or any of its subsidiaries in any other capacity. The company has also been informed that on the expiry of his present term on the 31st March, 1974, the Managing Director and Chairman of the company may continue as a Non-executive Chairman for one year upto the 31st March, 1975.

(c) As far as this Department is aware, there is no other company similarly situated.

Upward trend in Crimes on Railways during the first six months of the year 1973

281. SHRI DEVINDER SINGH GARCHA:

SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether crimes on Railways have shown an upward trend during the first six months of this year, specially on the Eastern, North-Eastern and Northern Railways;

(b) if so, whether the administrations of the States through which these lines pass and which are paid by the Centre for the proper protection of the Railway property are not taking adequate interest in providing protection expected of them; and

(c) whether some new measures are proposed to be taken to see that the robberies are kept under control?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) No, the incidence of crimes on the Railways has not shown an upward trend during the period January—June 1973. However, during this period the incidence of murder, robbery and dacoity showed some increase on the Eastern Railway. The incidence of such crimes on the Northern and North Eastern Railways has shown some decrease during this period.

(b) No. The State Governments concerned are taking adequate interest in tackling crimes on Railways.

(c) The following preventive measures are being taken to prevent such crimes on Railways:—

(i) Important night passenger trains are being escorted by armed police;

(ii) Regular beat duties by Government Railway Police staff are arranged to keep surveillance over known criminals and bad characters.

(iii) Plain clothed Police-men are deployed to collect information and to watch the activities of criminals.

(iv) In the West Bengal area of the Eastern, South-Eastern and Northeast-Frontier Railways, a system of haunting patrols has

been introduced. Action is also under way to form resistance groups to tackle such crimes on Railways.

(v) A working group consisting of senior officers of State/Central Government (including Railways) has been formed to thoroughly examine the position and to suggest measures for effectively tackling the problem of crimes on Railways.

This group has so far held one meeting at which it was unanimously agreed that there is an urgent need to augment the strength of Government Railway Police. The State Governments, however, expressed their inability to meet this additional expenditure and desired that the Central Government should bear the cost of expenditure on this augmentation by giving grants-in-aid. Accordingly a memorandum was submitted to the Finance Commission.

Directions to Vanaspati Industry to keep records of Cost Accounting

282. SHRI DEVINDER SINGH GARCHA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a directive has been issued to the Vanaspati Industry to keep records of the Cost Accounting; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not doing so earlier, when such directions were given to other industries?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal for prescription of rules for the class of companies manufacturing Vanaspati was received in the end of 1969. Thereafter necessary steps were taken to frame rules for this class of companies. The rules were notified in November, 1972.

Sharing of power generated by Central Sector projects on Regional basis

283. SHRI P. NARASIMHA REDDY: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a decision has been taken or is under consideration for feeding all power generated from Central Sector Generation projects into the respective Regional Grid Systems for being shared equitably by different States comprising the region;

(b) if so, the arrangements made or contemplated for sharing power from Neyveli and Kalpakkam in the Southern Regional Grid System; and

(c) whether Government are aware of the urgent need to evolve a National Policy in this regard in view of the increasing role and scope of Central Sector power generation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PARSAD): (a) The general principles that should govern the sharing of power from atomic power station and Central Sector power generation projects are under examination.

(b) At present no proposal to change the arrangements made initially for the allocation of the power generated at Neyveli and Kalpakkam stations to Tamil Nadu is under consideration.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Streamlining and reorganising of Railways' Administrative set-up

284. SHRI P. NARASIMHA REDDY:

SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposals are under consideration for reorganising and streamlining the Railways' Administrative set-up;

(b) whether the World Bank has also suggested in this regard certain measures and has stipulated their adoption as a condition for grant of assistance; and

(c) the broad outlines of the proposals contemplated by Government and suggested by World Bank and the action taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) No.

(b) and (c). The International Development Association have recently expressed a desire to discuss the question of composition and responsibilities of the Railway Board during negotiations for the contemplated fresh I.D.A. credit to cover Indian Railways' requirements for certain imports from 1-1-1974. The negotiations for the fresh credit are at present being held with the I.D.A. in Washington.

Reported investment by Snoweem (India) Limited and Filtrona (India) Limited in Maruti Limited against the provisions of the Companies Act

275. SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO:

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Snoweem (India) Limited and Filtrona (India) Limited. two companies under Kapadia's control, have interested large amount of money in Maruti Limited against the provisions of the Indian Companies Act;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and the amount invested by each company; and

(c) whether Government propose to inquire into the circumstances in which these Companies have invested such a huge amount in Maruti Limited and if not, reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA): (a) and (b). According to the latest Annual Return of M/s. Maruti Limited filed with the Registrar of Companies, Delhi and Haryana, M/s. Snoweem (India) Limited does not appear to hold any share in the capital of the former company.

Regarding M/s. Filtrona (India) Limited there is no change in its shareholdings of 24,000 equity shares of Rs. 10 each fully paid up. As on the date of the Annual Return made upto 29th September, 1973, the subscribed and paid up capital of M/s. Maruti Limited is Rs. 1,36,11,450 and thus there is no contravention of Section 372(2) of the Companies Act, 1956 which empowers *inter alia* the investing company to invest in any shares of any other body corporate upto ten per cent of the subscribed capital of such other body corporate. However, during the period 3rd January to 1st March, 1972, the investing company exceeded the ceiling of ten per cent, but consequent upon increase of the capital of the investee company, the irregularity on the part of the former company was rectified.

(c) Does not arise.

Examination of Report on Legal aid to the poor

286. SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO:

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given on the 24th July, 1973 to Starred Question No. 37 regarding Report of the Committee on the Legal Assistance to the poor and state:

(a) whether the recommendations made by the Committee on Free legal

aid to the poor have since been examined by Government; and

(b) if so, with what result?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY): (a) The report of the Committee is still under examination.

(b) Does not arise.

Raising prices of oil by Arab countries and its impact on Indian economy

287. SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO:

SHRI HUKAM CHAND KACHWAI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Arab oil producing countries have recently decided to increase the prices of their products;

(b) if so, its effect on India's foreign exchange and economy; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The import bill for bringing in about 16 million tonnes of crude oil at the recently increased prices will go up by about Rs. 114 crores per annum.

(c) Government have already taken some short term measures and are presently considering some long term measures to meet the situation.

Creation of national authority for settlement of disputes on sharing of water among States

288. SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO:

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of State river water disputes which are pending at present;

(b) whether Government have sought views of the State Chief Ministers to make water a national asset and to create a national authority to settle the disputes on sharing of water among the States; and

(c) if so, the broad outlines thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PARSAD): (a) Almost all the major rivers in India are inter-State in character and differences arise among the States concerned in the planning or operation of projects on these inter-State rivers. The major differences at present relate to the utilisation of waters of the following inter-State rivers:

Krishna: Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka.

Godavari: Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa.

Cauvari: Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

Narmada: Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. With a view to optimising the use of the limited water resources of the country, the need for constituting a high powered National Water Resources Council to evolve a national water policy, to make a continuous appraisal of the need for

water and the most beneficial and equitable allocation of available water for different uses in the overall national interest and to resolve water disputes expeditiously, has been felt. As a first step, amendments to some provisions in the Constitution have been suggested so as to reflect the concept of water as a national asset and to provide for the settlement of inter-State water disputes by conciliation, arbitration or otherwise. The proposals for a National Water Resources Council and settlement of disputes through its agency have been generally supported. While a few States have expressed themselves against the amendments, most of the States have felt that the scope of the amendments should be limited to disputes on inter-States river waters only and that the existing powers of the States in regard to the use and control of waters should continue as heretofore. The matter is under further study in the light of the views expressed by the State Government.

Foreign experts working in the Cochin Division of F.A.C.T.

289. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any foreign experts have been working in the Cochin Division of F.A.C.T.;

(b) if so, the total number of such experts working in this plant and the total expenditure incurred on them and its year-wise break-up; and

(c) how far these experts have been able to rectify the defects of the plant and the time by which it is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b). Presently, 25 expatriate personnel from equipment suppliers and process licensors are assisting F.A.C.T. in commissioning of the Cochin plant, The total expenditure incurred on them and the yearwise break-up thereof is as under:

Year	(Rs. in lakhs)
1968-69 .	1·00
1969-70 .	19·00
1970-71 .	21·00
1971-72 .	49·00
1972-73 .	53·00
1973-74 .	22·00
Total	165·00

(c) The expatriate personnel have been working with F.A.C.T. staff with a view to identifying various mechanical and operational problems of the plant and implementing the necessary modifications/other corrective steps. These are expected to be completed in about six months' time.

Delay in setting up of a ferfilizer plant by F.A.C.T. Engineering and Design Division

290. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the F.A.C.T. Engineering and Design Division had secured an order for setting up a fertilizer plant costing Rs. 12 crore from Hindustan Copper Limited and has delayed the completion of the project by six months; and

(b) whether the Company has to pay Rs. 12 lakh per month for the period of delay to Hindustan Copper Limited and whether this delay was caused due to the irresponsibility of the management and if so, the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b). FEDO has secured the order referred to. According to present indications, there might be some delay in the completion of the project, but continuing efforts are being made to expedite project completion. The question whether any penalty would be payable by FEDO under its contract with the Hindustan Copper Ltd., and if so, the quantum thereof, alongwith the reasons therefor, would be known only after the project is completed.

Re-structuring of the Fertilizer Corporation of India

291. SHRI SAT PAL KAPUR:

SHRI SHRIKISHAN MODI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a proposal earlier to set up a holding company for the Fertilizer Corporation of India;

(b) whether the proposal to set up the holding company has now been shelved; and

(c) if so, the way in which his Ministry proposes to re-structure the Fertilizer Corporation of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) to (c). At present, there is no proposal to set up a Holding Company in the field of fertilizers. There are three public sector companies already, namely, the Fertilizer Corporation of India; the Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd.; and Madras Fertilizers Limited. The setting up of a fourth company for constructing and operating three plants in the North-west region has been agreed to in principle.

Reduction in the Running Time of Trains

292. SHRI SAT PAL KAPUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the running time of some of the trains has been reduced during the year 1973 till date; and

(b) if so, the names thereof and the extent to which the running time of trains has been reduced in each case?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) Yes.

(b) A statement showing the trains the running time of which was reduced by 15 minutes or more during the year 1973 (upto November, 73 time-table) is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-5674/73].

Strike by Station Masters and Asstt. Station Masters in Varanasi Division in September, 1973 (North-Eastern Railways)

293. SHRI SAT PAL KAPUR:

SHRI M. SUDARSANAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Station Masters and Assistant Station Masters in Varanai Division of North-Eastern Railway went on a strike in the third week of September, 1973;

(b) their demands and the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the period for which the said Station Masters and Assistant Station Masters were on strike and the loss of revenue caused to Government due to cancellation of trains due to the strike?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) Yes.

(b) The main demands were relating to immediate transfer of certain Bill Clerks of Personnel Branch of Varanasi Division dealing with Asstt. Station Masters & decentralisation of Personnel Branch of the Division. The demands were not found feasible for immediate acceptance.

(c) From 20th to 25th September, 73. The loss suffered by the Railway due to cancellation and truncation of trains is estimated to be Rs. 12.61 lakhs approximately.

उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य बिजली बोर्ड द्वारा रिहन्द बांध को भरने के लिए कृत्रिम वर्षा का आयोजन

294. **श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय** : क्या **सिंचाई और विद्युत्** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य बिजली बोर्ड द्वारा रिहन्द बांध को भरने के लिए कृत्रिम वर्षा का आयोजन किया गया था ;

(ख) इस पर कुल कितना व्यय हुआ; और

(ग) कृत्रिम वर्षा के आयोजन के क्या परिणाम रहे हैं ?

सिंचाई और विद्युत् मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री सिद्धेश्वर प्रसाद) : (क) उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार के अनुरोध पर रिहन्द बांध के जल क्षेत्र में भारतीय उष्णकटिबंधी मौसम संस्थान तथा भारतीय मौसम विभाग द्वारा कृत्रिम वर्षा पर प्रयोग किये गए थे।

(ख) लगभग 4.5 लाख रुपये का व्यय किया गया था।

(ग) प्रयोग अवधि के दौरान जलाशय का स्तर 27.6 फुट बढ़ गया। बहरहाल, यह कहना अभी संभव नहीं कि इसमें से कितना प्राकृतिक कारणों से था और कितना इन प्रयोगों का परिणाम। यह मूल्यांकन भारतीय मौसम विभाग तथा भारतीय उष्णकटिबंधी मौसम संस्थान द्वारा किया जा रहा है।

कर्मचारियों की हड़ताल के कारण रेलवे की क्षति

295. **श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय** : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) विगत दो वर्षों में रेल कर्मचारियों द्वारा की गई हड़तालों के कारण भारतीय रेलवे को अनुमानतः कितनी क्षति हुई है ; और

(ख) उस पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

रेल मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री मोहम्मद शफ़ी कुरेशी) : (क) पिछले दो वर्षों अर्थात् 1971 और 1972 में रेल कर्मचारियों द्वारा की गयी हड़तालों के कारण रेलों को लगभग 3.30 करोड़ रुपये की हानि होने का अनुमान है।

(ख) सभी कोटियों के कर्मचारियों की जायज मांगों पर विचार किया जाता है और विभिन्न स्तरों पर स्थायी वार्ता-तंत्र और संयुक्त परामर्श-तंत्र जैसी सामूहिक सौदाकारी व्यवस्था के जरिये उनका समाधान किया जाता है। लम्बे अरसे से यह व्यवस्था संवैधानिक ढंग से और सफलतापूर्वक काम कर रही है। इसके अलावा, गैर-मान्यता प्राप्त यूनियनों सहित किसी भी स्रोत से आने वाले अभ्यावेदनों पर यथोचित विचार किया जाता है और प्रत्येक मामले में उपयुक्त कार्रवाई की जाती है। जब शिकायतें प्रस्तुत करने और उन्हें दूर करवाने के इतने अवसर उपलब्ध हों तब 'नियमानुसार काम' संरक्षापरक काम जैसे

आन्दोलनों अथवा अवैद्य हड़तालों के अचानक भड़क उठने की वास्तव में कोई गुंजाइश नहीं होनी चाहिये ।

प्रशासन के समक्ष जो मांगे रखी जाती हैं, उन पर पूरी सहानुभूति से यथोचित विचार किया जाता है । कर्मचारियों को यह महसूस करना चाहिए कि कुछ मांगें पेश कर देने का ही यह अर्थ नहीं हो जाता कि उन्हें फौरन मान लिया जाये । वित्तीय साधनों, नियमों और विनियमों की रूप-रेखा, मांगों को स्वीकार किये जाने का औचित्य और उनको स्वीकार किये जाने की प्रतिक्रिया जैसे पहलुओं को ध्यान में रखकर ही सरकार को मांगों पर विचार करना होता है ।

विगत पांच महीनों में बिना टिकट यात्रा करने वाले यात्रियों के विरुद्ध कार्यवाही

296. **श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय** : क्या **रेल** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) विगत पांच महीनों में पूर्वोत्तर रेलवे में बिना टिकट यात्रा करने के अभियोग में कितने व्यक्तियों के विरुद्ध कार्यवाही की गई है; और

(ख) बिना टिकट यात्रा करने वाले यात्रियों से जुर्माने के रूप में कितनी धनराशि एकत्रित की गई ?

रेल मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री मुहम्मद शफ़ी कुरेशी) : (क) 53,500 व्यक्ति (अप्रैल से अगस्त 1973)

(ख)	रुपये
(1) किराया	1,35,691
(2) अधिप्रभार	
(क) न्यूनतम अधिप्रभार	3,325
(ख) उच्चतर अधिप्रभार	4,56,370
(3) अदालती जुर्माना	1,10,180

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विगत पांच महीनों में दक्षिण मध्य रेलवे पर तोड़ फोड़ की कार्यवाही के परिणामस्वरूप हुई रेल दुर्घटनाएं

297. **श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय** : क्या **रेल** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) विगत पांच महीनों में दक्षिण-मध्य रेलवे में तोड़ फोड़ की कार्यवाही के परिणामस्वरूप कितनी रेल दुर्घटनाएं हुई हैं ; और

(ख) तोड़ फोड़ की कार्यवाहियों को रोकने के लिये सरकार की क्या योजना है ?

रेल मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री मुहम्मद शफ़ी कुरेशी) : (क) 1-6-1973 से 31-10-73 तक की अवधि में दक्षिण-मध्य रेलवे में ऐसी कोई दुर्घटना नहीं हुई ।

(ख) ऐसी गतिविधिओं को रोकने के लिये निम्नलिखित उपाय किये गये/किये जा रहे हैं:

राज्य सरकारों द्वारा :

(i) विशेषतया भेदय खण्डों में रेल की पटरियों पर गश्त लगाना ।

(ii) रेल की पटरी के निकटवर्ती स्थानों पर रहने वाले ग्रामीणों में शिक्षात्मक प्रचार करना ।

(iii) जहां ग्राम रक्षा समितियां हैं, उनकी सहायता लेना ।

(iv) समाज विरोधी तत्वों की विनाशक गतिविधियों के संबंध में समय पर सूचना देने वाले व्यक्तियों को इनाम देना ।

(v) ऐसी गतिविधियों में लिप्त शरारती, असन्तुष्ट और समाज-विरोधी तत्वों के बारे में सूचना इकट्ठी करना ।

(vi) जहां सम्भव हो, भारतीय दण्ड संहिता और भारतीय रेल अधिनियम के अधीन मुकदमें चलाकर अपराधिओं को दण्ड दिलाना ।

रेलों द्वारा:—

(i) रेलवे सुरक्षा दल आसूचना इकट्ठी करके और उसका पुलिस के साथ आदान-प्रदान करके अपराधियों का पता लगाने, उन्हें पकड़ने और उन पर मुकदमा चलाने में राज्य पुलिस की सहायता करता है ।

(ii) रेलवे सुरक्षा दल द्वारा रखे गये कुत्ता दस्तों को, जहां सम्भव हो, अपराधियों को पकड़ने के लिए उपयोग में लाया जाता है ।

(iii) सन्दिग्ध व्यक्तियों, विशेषकर लोहारों, रद्दी सामान का व्यापार करने वालों, अन्य कुख्यात अपराधियों तथा समाज विरोधी तत्वों पर कड़ी निगरानी रखी जाती है ।

(iv) विभिन्न स्तरों पर आवधिक बैठकें करके और सूचना का आदान-प्रदान करके राज्य पुलिस के साथ निकट सहयोग और समन्वय बनाये रखा जाता है ।

(v) इंजीनियरी और रेल-पथ कर्मचारियों को हिदायत है कि वे रेल पथ के निकट रेलवे के खुले सामानों या औजारों का ढेर न लगायें ।

(vi) उन मामलों में, जहां रेल कर्मचारियों की गलती के कारण रेल पटरी से छेड़-छाड़ सुविधाजनक हो जाती है, निवारक दण्ड दिया जाता है ।

(vii) रेल पथ पर नियुक्त श्रमिकों के पूर्व-वृत की जांच-पड़ताल की जाती है ।

रेलवे कर्मचारियों को दिये गये समयोपरि भत्ते में वृद्धि

298. **श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय** : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या वित्तीय वर्ष 1970–71 और 1971–72 के मुकाबले में वित्तीय वर्ष 1972–73 में उनके 'मंत्रालय' में काम करने वाले कर्मचारियों को अदा किये गये समयोपरि भत्ते की राशि में काफी वृद्धि हुई है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उक्त वर्षों में समयोपरि भत्ते पर वर्षवार कितनी राशि व्यय की गई थी; और

(ग) क्या वित्तीय संकट को दृष्टिगत रखते हुये सरकार का विचार वित्तीय वर्ष 1973–74 में व्यय की जाने वाली अनुमानित समयोपरि भत्ते की राशि में कटौती करने का है और यदि हां, तो कितनी ?

रेल मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री मुहम्मद शफ़ी कुरेशी) : (क) जी नहीं ।

(ख) समयोपरि भत्ते पर वर्षवार खर्च की गयी रकम नीचे दिखायी गयी है:-

	रुपये
1970-71	8,99,921.15
1971-72	8,42,000.00
1972-73	6,77,450 00

(ग) वरिष्ठ अधिकारी कर्मचारियों को समयोपरि बठाने के प्रत्येक मामले में समुचित छानबीन करते हैं ताकि प्रशासन की आवश्यकताएं भी पूरी हो जायें और खर्च भी यथासंभव कम हो।

Major Irrigation Projects under Construction in States since First Plan period

299. SHRI D. K. PANDA:

SHRI Y. ESWARA REDDY:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked the State Governments to send reports about the major irrigation projects which are still under construction since 1st plan period; and

(b) if so, the names of the States and the Project?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) No Sir. As and when major and medium projects are investigated and finalised by the State Governments, they send them to the Government of India for scrutiny and inclusion in the State Plan.

(b) Does not arise.

Proposal to raise Prices of Essential Drugs

300. SHRI D. K. PANDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are not in favour of allowing a raise in the prices of certain essential drugs; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to this effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b). The report of the Working Group set up under the Chairmanship of the Chairman of the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices on the prices of 23 bulk drugs and other related matters is still under consideration of Government.

Functioning of Durgapur Chemicals

302. SHRI D. K. PANDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Durgapur Chemicals has been a chronic defaulter; and

(b) if so, the facts of the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b). The production of the unit has been significantly below rated capacity. This has been caused by a series of operational problems, as well as by the labour unrest, which has interrupted smooth functioning.

The licensed capacities and production during the last three years was as follows:—

	Licensed capacity tonnes/ year	Production (tonnes)		
		1970	1971	1972
Phenol	6,600	583	502	607
Phthalic Anhydride	6,600	1,417	789	325
Penta chloro Phenol	990	N.A.	Nil	Nil
Caustic Soda	10,500	1,976	2,241	2,078
Chlorine	8,916	991	1,658	1,365

Demands of Maintenance and Operation Staff of State Electricity Board of U.P.

303. SHRI MADHURYYA HALDAR:
SHRI P. VENKATA-SUBBAIAH:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the demands of the Maintenance and Operation staff of the State Electricity Board of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the outcome of the negotiations held to avoid the strike by the staff; and

(c) the particulars of staff arrested and dismissed in this connection and the grounds thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) According to information received from the Uttar Pradesh Government the demands of maintenance and operation staff of the State Electricity Board of Uttar Pradesh are the immediate revision of pay scales and correction of fitments and categorisation fixed by the Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board pursuant to the recommendations of the Central Wage Board for Electricity Undertakings.

(b) The pay scales fixed by the Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board on the basis of the recommendations of Central Wage Board for Electricity Undertakings which had been disputed by the workers had been referred by the State Government to the Industrial Tribunal for adjudication. During negotiations with the representatives of the Hydro Electric Employees Union it was explained to them that they should wait for the Tribunal's award but they did not agree to it and resorted to strike.

(c) The total number of persons arrested in this connection is 6283, no employees has so far been dismissed. The arrests have been made on account of intimidation of loyal workers, organisation Dharnas and gheraos and also sabotaging of the transmission lines.

Dislocation of Train Services in Sealdah Division

304. SHRI MADHURYYA HALDAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of dislocations of train services in Sealdah Division of Eastern Railway this year; and

(b) the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) 60 occasions from January to October, 1973.

(b) 21 cases were caused due to thefts or attempted thefts of overhead copper and anticreep wires, 27 due to passenger demonstrations and squatting on track, 7 due to assault on Railway staff by passengers, 2 due to miscreants activities 2 due to staff agitation and 1 due to derailment.

Missing Fans, Bulbs, Seats, Door panes and Window Shutters of EMU coaches of Sealdah Division

305. SHRI MADHURYYA HALDAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has made any survey of missing fans, bulbs, seats, door-pane and window shutters of EMU Coaches of Sealdah Division of Eastern Railway during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the number of the fittings etc., found missing and the loss to the Railway on this account?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) Yes.

(b) Last survey of amenity fittings in Sealdah Division was carried out on 7th May, 1973, when a census was taken of the deficiency of fans, lights, holders, doors and window shutters. The census did not cover seats because availability of these seats was satisfactory. The deficiencies of the above fittings on EMU Coaches of Sealdah Division on 7th May, 1973 and the approximate replacement cost were as under:—

	Deficiencies (nos)	Cost (lakhs)
Fans . . .	4534	10·35
Lamps holders .	918	0·10
Doors . .	2796	17·55
Window shutters	1095	1·18
Total		29·18

Major Irrigation Project During Fifth Plan

306. SHRI MADHURYYA HALDAR: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided not to take up any major irrigation project during the Fifth Plan; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) and (b). New major irrigation projects are proposed to be taken up in the Fifth Plan to maintain continuity in the development of irrigation. The detailed proposals have, however, not yet been finalised.

Progress in Construction work on Rajasthan Canal

307. DR. H. P. SHARMA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in the construction of the Rajasthan Canal, phase-wise;

(b) what provision has been made for the Rajasthan canal project in

the Central and State sectors for the current year; and

(c) the provision proposed to be made therefor under the Fifth Five Year Plan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) The following works have since been completed:—

STAGE-1

(i) Rajasthan Feeder in its entire length (134 miles); (ii) Rajasthan Main Canal mile 0 to 83; (iii) Suratgarh Branch System; (iv) Naurangdesar, Rawatsar, Zorawarpura, Khodan, Khetawali Thetar, Kanaur, Chuli, Jessabhati, Somasar and Bhojewali direct distributaries.

The following works are in progress:—

STAGE-I

(i) Rajasthan Main Canal mile 83 to 124; (ii) Pugal Branch; Anupgarh Shakha System; (iii) direct distributaries mile 48 to 124; and (iv) Loonkaransar-Bikaner Lift Canal System; (v) Lining of earthen distributaries and minor; (vi) Survey and Sub-rectangulation for command system.

STAGE-II

(i) Earthwork on construction Water Supply Channel; (ii) Construction work of roads and buildings; (iii) Laying of Electrical transmission lines and (iv) Survey work in respect of channel alignments.

(b) Rajasthan Canal forms a part of the State Plan. The provision made by the State for the current year is Rs. 11.5 crores. However, due to recent cut on expenditure, the State authorities are contemplating some reduction in this provision. In addition to this, a non-plan assistance of Rs. 1.97 crores has been approved by the Centre for the current year.

(c) Rajasthan Government, in its Fifth Plan, has proposed a provision of Rs. 70 crores for this project. The plan is yet to be finalised.

Effect of Shortage of Wagons on Movement of Coal

308. DR. H. P. SHARMA:
SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether shortage of wagons continues to seriously affect the movement of coal, causing great difficulty for the industries on the one hand and menacing accumulations of coal at pit heads and loading platforms;

(b) if so, the actual requirements of wagons for coal movement during each of the past six months and availability thereof; and

(c) the reasons for continuing wagon-shortage and the steps being taken by Government to improve the situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) The availability of wagons for transportation of coal is affected due to a number of adverse factors very often beyond the control of the Railways such as Power Cuts affecting both train operation and coal production, strikes, "work-to-rule and resignation" by Railway staff squitting on track, outside interference with train working, heavy rains, breaches, immobilisation of wagons due to undue delay

In l ading and unloading operations by Railways customers, etc

Although the demands of all industries are not met in full, pro-rate distribution of available coal is made to them to ensure that immediate requirements of coal are reached to keep the industries going.

There has been no accumulation of coal at pit-heads and loading platforms as has been stated. On the other hand, the pit-head stock which stood at 7.00 million tonnes in variout coalfields on 1st January 1973, has dropped to 5.95 million tonnes as on 1st September, 1973.

(b) The daily average indents and loading of wagons from April to September, 1973 are indicated below:

(Figures in 4-wheelers)

Months	Indent	Loading
April, 73 .	11870	8067
May, 73 .	11061	7649
June, 73 .	10974	7635
July, 73 .	10681	7541
Aug, 73 .	10378	7081
Sept, 73 . .	11090	7209

(c) The reasons for less wagon availability have been given in reply against item (a). Railways are, however, procuring more wagons to meet the anticipiated increase in demands of coal and other traffic.

Oil Exploration in Bombay High with drilling Platform Procured from Japan

309. DR. H. P. SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the drilling platform for oil explorations on Bombay High has since been received from Japan and oil explorations have thereby commmenced;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) whether there are any other schemes for offshore oil explorations and if so, the board outlines thereof and the action taken so far in pursuance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Drilling with the use of this platform started on October 11, 1973.

(c) The Indian continental shelf has been divided into 10 areas. Out of these, the block comprising Bombay High and adjoining areas is being presently explored by the ONGC exclusively. For the other 9 areas, a number of proposals from foreign oil companies for carrying out oil exploration and development have been received by the Government, and these are under consideration.

Foreign Assistance for Oil Explorations in Offshore Areas

310. DR. H. P. SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) what action has since been taken in pursuance of Government's decision to attract foreign aid and assistance for oil explorations in Key off shore areas; and

(b) which specific off shore areas have been earmarked for such oil explorations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) Negotiations are in progress with a selected number of the foreign parties who have given proposals for collaboration in offshore oil exploration in our Continental Shelf, and

(b) All parts of the Continental Shelf except the Gulf of Cambay and the adjoining parts of the Arabian Sea to the south (upto 16° Latitude) are kept open for offshore exploration with foreign collaboration.

Demand for a further increase in prices of Petroleum and Petroleum Products by Foreign Oil Companies

311. DR H. P. SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign oil Companies have been insisting on further increase in the prices of petroleum and petroleum products, with a view to further cutting down petroleum consumption;

(b) if so, what is the oil companies demand in this regard and how far the consumption of petroleum and its products is proposed to be cut down thereby;

(c) how the per capita consumption of petrol and other products in India compare with that in the USA, UK, West Germany, East Germany, France, USSR, Japan and the average per capita world consumption; and

(d) Government's reaction to the demand of oil Companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) The foreign oil companies have not insisted on further increase in the prices of petroleum products with a view to further cutting down the consumption of products. All oil companies, including those in the public sector, have only been asking for increases in product prices to compensate them for increased crude oil prices.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The per capita consumption of Gasolines and petroleum products in the USA, UK, West Germany, France, Japan, India and the world is given below:

Country	Per capita consumption (in kilogram)	
	Gasoline (based on inland demand figures)	Petroleum Products
U.S.A.	1432	3696
U. K.	395	1918
West Germany	468	2342
France	377	2196
Japan	366	2259
India	4(based on sales Figs.)	39
World	NA	685

Information in respect of USSR and East Germany is not available.

(d) The prices of bulk refined petroleum products have been increased effective from 3rd November, 1973.

Trains which were late or were cancelled due to shortage of Coal during the last Six Months

312. SHRI R. S. PANDEY:

SHRI S A. MURUGANANTHAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of trains are often late or cancelled due to the shortage of coal;

(b) if so, the number thereof during the last six months; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to over come such shortage of coal at the Railway yards?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) and (b). Yes. 84 trains ran late and 15,557 passenger trains were cancelled during the period 1-5-1973 to 31-10-73 due to shortage of coal.

(c) There was a spurt in demand for coal by industries and other consumers and for export and this had to be met equitably along with the needs of the Railways within the overall availability of coal. The position had a further setback in summer months when heavy power shedding in the Eastern Sector affected train movement in electrified sections and production in coal mines in the Bengal-Bihar fields. In August and September, 1973 there was further deterioration in loading due to loco running staff and carriage and wagon staff agitation followed by a spate of staff and public agitations on Eastern and South Eastern Railways. In October there was less offer of steam coal due to holidays enjoyed by colliery staff during Puja and Diwali. One of the main coalmines in Assam supplying coal to N. F. Railway was flooded and suspended production. Close liaison is maintained with coal mining authorities for improving supplies of loco coal.

Late running of trains since the last strike by Loco-men

313. SHRI R. S. PANDEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the trains have been running late since the last strike by loco-men;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to restore normal running of trains to avoid inconvenience to the public?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) and (b). No. However, the punctual running of trains during the past few months has deteriorated mainly on account of Loco Staff Strike and its after effect, public and staff agitations from time to time, power cuts, breaches theft of telecommunication wires resulting in signal and telecommunication failures, increased incidence of alarm chain pulling etc.

(c) Punctuality performance of train is closely watched at all levels by the Zonal Railways and for important Mail/Express trains at Railway Board's level. Avoidable detentions are taken up and remedial action taken to improve the running of trains.

Progress of Construction of Ring Railways in Delhi, Bombay and Calcutta

314. SHRI R. S. PANDEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress achieved so far with regard to the construction of Ring Railways in Delhi, Bombay and Calcutta to meet the growing traffic needs of public in these cities; and

(b) whether any target Schedules have been set up to complete these projects on priority basis?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) There is no proposal under consideration to construct ring railways in the cities of Calcutta and Bombay.

The feasibility investigations for a mass rapid transit line parallel to the Northern Railway's Delhi Goods avoiding line are in hand, however.

(b) Does not arise.

Report of Committee on Reservation of Seats/Berths in Trains

315. SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA:

Shri M. S. SANJEEVI RAO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee set up to go into the matter of reservation of berths in trains has submitted its report; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof and the action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI):(a) The Committee has submitted its First Report on 9th October, 1973.

(b) The First Report deals with three aspects of reservation system;

(i) Time-limit for advance reservation;

(ii) Working hours of reservation offices; and

(iii) Waiting lists.

The recommendations of the Committee are as under:—

(i) The time-limit for advance reservations should be one year for all classes of accommodation;

(ii) The working hours for all classes of reservation should be uniform and the reservation offices at all major stations should function on two-shift basis, for 16 hours a day.

(iii) There should be no limit on the size of the waiting list, the waiting list should not lapse on the departure of the train and provision of Reservation booths for wait-listed passengers on all important stations should be strictly implemented.

These recommendations are under examination.

Late running of Express and Mail trains to and from Howrah during the last six months

316. SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the punctuality of trains to and from Howrah both on Eastern Railway and South Eastern Railway has gone down;

(b) if so, the number of Express and Mail Trains running late during the last six months; and

(c) the steps taken by the authorities to check the late running of trains?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) Yes, due to loco staff agitations, go-slow tactics and reported sabotage by U.P. State Electricity Board employees, power failures and load shedding, heavy incidence of interference with train services and alarm chain pulling by miscreants and cyclones and floods on East Coast, North Bengal and Assam.

(b) Out of 4163 Eastern and South Eastern Railway Mail and Express trains arriving Howrah 1820 trains arrived late. Out of 4170 Eastern and South Eastern Railway trains leaving Howrah 946 trains were late in the six months period ending 15th October, 1973.

(c) Punctuality performance of trains is closely watched at all levels by the Zonal Railways and for selected Mail/Express trains at Railway Board's level. Avoidable detentions are taken up and remedial action taken to improve the running of trains. In some trains, even alarm chain apparatus has been blanked off to effect an improvement in punctuality.

Resignation by Members of Advisory Committee on Sone Water Dispute in Protest against Agreement on Bansagar Project

317. SHRI M. S. SIVASWAMY:

SHRI VARKEY GEORGE:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether all members of the State Government's 13-man Advisory Committee on the Sone water dispute have resigned in protest against the Bihar-Madhya Pradesh-UP agreement of September, 16 on the Bansagar Project; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to resolve the issue?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) and (b). The agreement on the Bansagar Project was reached between the Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar, after discussions between the Governor of Uttar Pradesh, the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh and the Chief Minister of Bihar.

The 13 man advisory Committee in Bihar was constituted by the Bihar Government to advise them on the issues relating to the Bansagar Project. The Members of the Advisory Committee submitted their resignations after the agreement had been signed. The issues arising from this resignation are matters for the Government of Bihar to consider.

Review of Power Crisis by Group of Ministers of Government of India

318. SHRI M. S. SIVASWAMY:

SHRI MUHAMMED SHERIFF:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4816 on the 27th March, 1973 regarding the suggestion of Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for convening a Conference of Chief Ministers on power crisis and state:

(a) whether the Group of Ministers of the Government of India on Power has reviewed the matter regarding the power crisis and drawn up a co-ordinated national programme for relief, from the short-term and long-term points of view and whether the States have been duly consulted; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof and the progress achieved in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (PROF. SIDHHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) and (b). The Group of Ministers on Power has been reviewing the various aspects of the power situation from time to time in regard to short-term and long-term measures to improve power generation and availability. The States have been consulted, where necessary, in formulation and implementation of the recommendations. During the power crisis which was experienced in March 1973 and which continued till the onset of the monsoon, all possible measures were taken in consultation with the State Electricitly Boards/State Governments to maximise generation from

thermal plants, to co-ordinate the operation of hydro-stations with other stations in various parts of the country, and to commission the new plants as early as possible. With the onset of the monsoon of 1973, the power situation has improved except in U.P. and the D.V.C. area. Some shortages persist also in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka Among the important subjects considered by the Group of Ministers and on which action has been initiated in accordance with their recommendations are:

(1) Maximising the utilisation of the existing power generation capacity.

(2) Expediting the construction, erection and commissioning of the power projects.

(3) Ways and means for improving the operation of DVC.

(4) Imports of generating plant and equipment for certain hydro and thermal power plants for ensuring their speedy completion.

(5) Installation of diesel generating sets for agricultural pumping as well as for stand-by plants in industries.

(6) Conversion of some power plants in Neyveli to oil firing to tide over the shortage of lignite and increase power generation.

(7) Captive power plants for the steel industry.

(8) Arrangements for supply and transport of coal and fuel oil for thermal power plants.

(9) Arrangements for improving the quality of fuels for the thermal power plants.

(10) Rationalisation of priorities for power supply for maximising industrial and agricultural output.

Reservation of posts for Graduates direct-Recruits in resultant vacancies due to upgradation of posts in Accounts Department of Central Railway

319. SHRI M. S. SIVASWAMY:
SHRI MUHAMMED SHERIFF:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the orders issued in Railway Board's letter No. E(S)-1-61/CPC/88 dated 16th/17th April, 1962 that 20 per cent of the resultant vacancies in the grade of Rs. 80-220 (prescribed) accuring on 1st April, 1956 as a result of upgradation of posts should be reserved for Graduates' direct recruits in the Accounts Department of Central Railway; and

(b) if not, (i) the number of Graduates Clerks eligible for promotion in such vacancies but not yet promoted and (ii) the steps taken to ensure implementation of these orders?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) The Hon'ble Member presumably refers to Railway Board's letter No. E(S)I-61/CPC/83 dated 16|17-4-62 and the orders contained there in have been implemented in the Accounts Department of the Central Railway.

(b) Does not arise.

Supply of Drilling Rigs by USSR for Oil Exploration in India

320. SHRI M. S. SIVASWAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had asked the USSR Government for the supply of drilling rigs as part of the co-operation programme in the exploration of oil resources; and

(b) if so, the number of rigs asked for and the reaction of that Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b). The ONGC had asked M/s. V/O Technoexport Moscow to furnish offers for drilling rigs of 2000, 4000, 5000 and 6000 metres capacity. In response, drilling rigs of 2000, 4000, and 5000 metres, capacity were offered by the Russian authorities. There was no offer for 6000 metres capacity rigs. The ONGC have sent a proposal to Government for the purchase of 3 rigs of 2000 metres capacity from USSR which have been found technically suitable. The rigs offered for 4000 and 5000 metres' capacity were found by the ONGC to be not technically suitable.

Stabbing of Security Guard of the Minister of Railways in a passenger train

321. SHRI M. S SANJEEVI RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been invited to the news item appearing in the *Hindustan Times* dated 3rd October, 1973 to the effect that Security Guard of Railway Minister was stabbed and his revolver snatched away by a gang of robbers following a raid on a passenger train in October, 1973; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) and (b). Yes, on 1-10-1973, while 113 Up Katihar-Jogbani passenger train was running between Simraha and Dholbaja stations of Northeast-Frontier Railway, 7/8 young men, who had earlier boarded a third class compartment No. 2004 at Purnea station, suddenly whipped out daggers and a revolver and started demanding the personal belongings of the passengers in the coach. Shri Dhrup Narain Mishra of Champaran (Bihar) was robbed of Rs. 440/- cash, one wrist watch and one woollen chadder. Shri Guru Dayal Singh (constable of Delhi Police), Security Guard of the Railway Minister, who also happened to be travelling in the same compartment, was robbed of his revolver, Rs. 65/- in cash and a suit case, and he also sustained injuries on his head. He was rendered first aid by the Guard of the Train and later sent to Civil Hospital, Forbesganj for further treatment.

The Government Railway Police, Katihar registered a case under Section 395 IPC. So far seven persons have been arrested. Police investigations continue.

After the occurrence of this incident the State Government is providing armfed police escorts in passenger trains in the affected sections.

Import of Turbo Generators from U.S.S.R.

322. SHRI M. S. SANJEEVI RAO: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Turbo Generators are proposed to be imported from U.S.S.R.;

(b) if so, the number and capacity of generators likely to be imported, and

(c) whether any agreement has been signed in this regard and if so, the main features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. It is proposed to import two units of 200 MW each from the U.S.S.R. for the Obra Thermal Station Extension project in U.P.

(c) No agreement has so far been signed.

Demand for a Fresh Increase in Price of Crude Oil by Foreign Oil Companies

323. SHRI M. S. SANJEEVI RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether two foreign oil companies operating in India have asked Government for a fresh raise of crude oil prices;

(b) if so, the extent of rise demanded; and

(c) the reaction of Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) All the oil refineries, operating on imported crude oil, including the public sector refineries are required to pay a higher price for imported crude oil effective from 16-10-1973.

(b) The extent of crude oil price increases effective from 16-10-1973 varies from $0.956 per barrel to $1.27 per barrel. Additionally, sulphur premium is also being provisionally recovered for light Iranian crude oil, effective from that date, at the rate of 18 cents per barrel. Effective from 1st November, 1973, prices have increased by another 4 cents per barrel on account of changes in the par value of US dollar vis-a-vis other selected currencies.

(c) Government have decided to allow these increases in crude oil prices.

माल डिब्बों की कमी को दूर करने के लिए उठाये गये पग

324. **श्री लालजी भाई** : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या गत कई वर्षों से रेलवे माल डिब्बों की कमी है ;

(ख) 1971-72 और 1972-73 के दौरान कितने माल डिब्बे प्राप्त किए गये; और

(ग) इस कमी को दूर करने के लिए सरकार द्वारा क्या प्रयास किये गये हैं ?

रेल मंत्रालय में उप-मंत्री (श्री मुहम्मद शफ़ी कुरेशी) : (क) जी नहीं। 1969-70 के अन्त तक माल डिब्बों की कोई कमी नहीं थी। उसके बाद से कानून और व्यवस्था की असन्तोषजनक स्थिति, आन्दोलनों, हड़तालों, उतराई स्थलों पर माल डिब्बों को खाली करने में अनावश्यक विलम्ब जैसे विभिन्न कारणों से कमी रही है जिसके परिणामस्वरूप व्यापारियों को मालडिब्बे तुरन्त सप्लाई करने में विलम्ब होता रहा है।

(ख) 1971-72 और 1972-73 में निजी क्षेत्र और रेलवे कारखानों में माल-डिब्बा निर्माताओं द्वारा चौपहियों के हिसाब से क्रमशः कुल 8532.5 और 10834 माल डिब्बे बनाए गये।

(ग) माल डिब्बों की उपलब्धता में सुधार करने के लिए विभिन्न उपाय किये गये हैं और/अथवा किये जा रहे हैं। इनमें से कुछ इस प्रकार हैं :-

1. संचलन में तेजी लाने के लिए डीज़ल और बिजली कर्षण के प्रयोग में वृद्धि।
2. 1-12-1972 से विलम्ब शुल्क और स्थान शुल्क की दर बढ़ा दी गई है ताकि व्यापारी माल लादने और उतारने के काम में तेजी लायें।
3. माल लादने और उतारने के काम में तेजी लाने और गाड़ी-भार-संचलन में वृद्धि के लिए व्यापारियों का निरन्तर सहयोग प्राप्त किया जाता है।

4. 1-9-1973 को रेल कारखानों सहित विभिन्न माल डिब्बा निर्माताओं के पास 41,233 मालडिब्बे बनाने के आर्डर बकाया पड़े थे। यातायात के प्रत्याशित स्तर के लिए पर्याप्त उपलब्धता सुनिश्चित करने के उद्देश्य से चौपहियों के हिसाब से 17,372 मालडिब्बों के और आर्डर दिये गये हैं।

5. क्षतिग्रस्त माल डिब्बों की मरम्मत के लिए उपायों और सुविधाओं को बढ़ाया जा रहा है।

बाढ़ के कारण, मकानों, पशुधन तथा फसलों को क्षति

325. **श्री लालजी भाई :** क्या **सिंचाई और विद्युत्** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) वर्ष 1971-72 तथा 1972-73 के दौरान बाढ़ के कारण मकानों, पशुधन, फसलों आदि को वर्षवार अनुमानतः कितनी धनराशि की क्षति हुई;

(ख) इस अवधि के दौरान वर्षवार बाढ़ नियंत्रण योजनाओं पर कितनी राशि खर्च की गई तथा उन योजनाओं सम्बन्धी मुख्य मुख्य बातें क्या हैं; और

(ग) इस अवधि में वर्षवार बाढ़ के कारण कितने व्यक्तियों की मृत्यु हुई और उनके परिवारों को कितनी कितनी राशि का मुआवजा अदा किया गया ?

सिंचाई और विद्युत् मंत्रालय में उप-मंत्री (श्री सिद्धेश्वर प्रसाद) : (क) से (ग) : राज्य सरकारों द्वारा प्राप्त रिपोर्टों पर आधारित क्षतियां निम्नलिखित हैं:—

	1971-72	1972-73
1. क्षति फसलों का मूल्य (करोड़ रुपये)	422.6	89.7
2. क्षतिग्रस्त घरों का मूल्य (करोड़ रुपये)	79.8	12.0
3. मृत मवेशियों की संख्या	12866	54247
4. मृत व्यक्तियों की संख्या	1141	440
5. सार्वजनिक सम्पत्तियों की क्षति (करोड़ रु०)	129.1	25.9
6. कुल क्षति (करोड़ रुपये)	631.5	127.5

1971-72 और 1972-73 के दौरान बाढ़ नियंत्रण उपायों पर क्रमशः 27.41 करोड़ रुपये और 42.40 करोड़ रुपये व्यय हुए। जो स्कीमें क्रियान्वित की गई उनमें ये शामिल थीं, नए तटबंधों का निर्माण, वर्तमान तट बंधों को ऊंचा और सुदृढ़ करना, नगर सुरक्षा कार्यों तथा जल-निस्सार नालियों का निर्माण और उनमें सुधार करना।

बाढ़ों के दौरान मरे व्यक्तियों के परिवारों को दी गई धनराशि से सम्बन्धित जानकारी इस समय उपलब्ध नहीं है।

राजस्थान नहर के निर्माण पर मई, 1973 तक हुआ व्यय

326. **श्री लालजी भाई :** क्या **सिंचाई और विद्युत्** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) राजस्थान नहर के निर्माण पर मई, 1973 के अन्त तक कितनी धनराशि खर्च हुई और कितने प्रतिशत निर्धारित लक्ष्य पूरे किए गए; और

(ख) कब तक नहर का निर्माण कार्य पूरा हो जाएगा ?

सिंचाई और विद्युत मंत्रालय में उप-मंत्री (श्री सिद्धेश्वर प्रसाद) : (क) राजस्थान नहर के निर्माण पर मई, 1973 के अन्त तक 94.44 करोड़ रुपये की राशि व्यय हुई है ।

राजस्थान नहर पर मुख्य कार्यों के मदों के सम्बन्ध में मई, 1973 के अन्त तक की प्रगति निम्नलिखित है ।

चरण – I

कार्य	प्रगति	
	मिट्टी का काम	पलस्तर कार्य
राजस्थान फीडर	पूर्ण हो गया है	पूर्ण हो गया है
राजस्थान मुख्य नहर	99%	79%
वितरण प्रणाली	56%	21%
लिफ्ट् नहर	93%	57%
लिफ्ट् नहर की वितरण प्रणाली	42%	14%

चरण –II

कुछ प्रारम्भिक कार्यों को छोड़ कर चरण II पर अभी कोई काम आरंभ नहीं किया गया है ।

(ख) परियोजना के चरण–I के चौथी पंचवर्षीय योजना के अन्त तक काफी हद तक पूर्ण होने की संभावना है तथा चरण–II के कार्य को पांचवीं योजना के दौरान हाथ में ले लिया जाएगा ।

रेलवे स्टेशनों का विद्युतीकरण

327. **श्री लालजी भाई :** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) देश के विभिन्न राज्यों में कितने रेलवे स्टेशनों का विद्युतीकरण किया जा चुका है; और

(ख) ऐसे रेलवे स्टेशनों की संख्या कितनी है जिनके लिये विद्युतीकरण की स्वीकृति दी जा चुकी है ?

रेल मंत्रालय में उप-मंत्री (श्री मुहम्मद शफ़ी कुरेशी) : (क) और (ख) : विभिन्न राज्यों में जिन स्टेशनों का विद्युतीकरण हो चुका है और जिनके विद्युतीकरण

का कार्यक्रम बनाया गया है उनकी संख्या इस प्रकार है :—

	विद्युतीकृत स्टेशन	वे स्टेशन जिनके विद्युतीकरण का कार्यक्रम बनाया गया है
आन्ध्र प्रदेश	439	18
असम	78	15
बिहार	425	15
दिल्ली	42	—
	363	8
गोवा	5	1
हरियाणा	105	1
हिमाचल प्रदेश	28	1
जम्मू और काश्मीर	9	—
कर्णाटक	224	9
केरल	128	—
महाराष्ट्र	384	14
मध्य प्रदेश	271	32
उड़ीसा	133	—
पांडीचेरी	9	—
पंजाब	222	5
राजस्थान	204	12
तमिल नाडु	571	9
उत्तर प्रदेश	607	35
पश्चिमी बंगाल	326	8

Failure of Block Instrument at Birati Station in Sealdah Division (Eastern Railway)

328. SHRI R. V. BADE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the block instrument, the apparatus to grant and obtain "line clear" for trains to come and go at Birati Station in Sealdah Division, Eastern Railway, failed both on up and down directions on the 28th July, 1973 and failure lasted for days together;

(b) what systems for passing trains was followed during the period of failure at the station;

(c) whether A.S.M on duty was assaulted by public on this occasion for detention of trains, caused on account of the said failure;

(d) whether any additional complement of staff was provided at the station to cope with the situation and if so, at what stage; and

(e) the reasons why the Signal and Telecommunication Department could not rectify the failure within a reasonable period?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) Yes, the Block instrument connected to Madhyamgram side failed at 17.45 hrs. on 28-7-1973 and continued till morning of 30-7-1973.

(b) Trains were passed on Paper line clear system.

(c) No.

(d) Additional complement of staff was not posted during this period as the normal complement of staff at the station is adequate to deal with such exigencies.

(e) The repair required attention in workshop and hence the delay.

Filling the post of Secretary of the Official Languages (Legislative) Commission

329. SHRI R V. BADE: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) when the post of the Secretary of the Official Languages (Legislative) Commission will be filled; and

(b) what steps have Government taken to fill the post?

* THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b). The Staff Inspection Unit of the Ministry of Finance which undertook a work-study of the Official Language (Legislative) Commission have recommended that there is no justification for a post of full-time Secretary in the Commission. No final decision on this recommendation has yet been taken.

Detention of SG 11 Up on 19th April, 1973 outside Kalighat Station in Sealdah Division due to Failure of Point

330. SHRI R. V. BADE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether on 19th April, 1973 train No. SG. 11 Up had to be detained at UP starter Signal of Kalighat Station in Sealdah Division (Eastern Railway) due to failure of a point which was to be negotiated by the said train;

(b) whether the DSTE/Sealdah, Eastern Railway who was travelling by the said train, induced the travelling public to agitate against the ASM on duty; and

(c) whether the matter was reported by the ASM and if so, how the said report was disposed of?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) SG 11Up was detained on 19-4-1973 at UP starter Kalighat Station not due to failure of point but due to failure of colour light signals.

(b) DSTE/Sealdah was travelling by the said train. He did not indulge in agitating the travelling public against the ASM on duty.

(c) A report was sent by the ASM. After examining the details of the case and necessary enquiries the report has been filed.

Centrally sponsored Irrigation Projects in M.P.

331. SHRI NARENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of irrigation projects under the centrally sponsored schemes in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether Ken Canal in Panna District was one of the schemes which was included in the Second Five Year Plan but not in the subsequent Plans;

(c) if so, the reasons given by the State Government for not including the scheme in Third and Fourth Five Year Plan; and

(d) whether in view of the importance of the Canal to the area for irrigation purposes Government propose to consider its inclusion in the Fifth Five Year Plan and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) Irrigation is a State subject and planning, investigation and construction of irrigation schemes is done by the State Governments. There are no centrally sponsored projects in Madhya Pradesh or any other State.

(b) and (c). The project is under investigation by the Government of Madhya Pradesh and no project report and estimates on the Ken river have so far been received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh.

The draft Fifth Plan proposals of the State Government contain a project on the river at a cost of Rs. 18 crores to irrigate 1,20,000 ha. The Fifth Plan proposals have not been finalised. The question of inclusion of the project in the Madhya Pradesh Plan will be considered at the appropriate time, after the project report and estimates have been received and found technically and economically feasible, and resources are in sight for its implementation.

Share of Expenditure to be incurred on Bansagar Project by M.P., Bihar and U.P.

332. SHRI NARENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether as a result of agreement signed among Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and U.P. to share the Sone water the cost of Bansagar Project including expenditure on the rehabilitation of people to be displaced by the reservoir, is to be shared by these States proportionately;

(b) if so, the actual percentage of expenditure to be shared by each concerned State; and

(c) the actual expenditure to be incurred on the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) and (b). The cost of Bansagar reservoir, including the cost of rehabilitation of displaced persons will be shared between Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Binar in the proportion 2:1:1.

(c) The Bansagar project has to be revised in the light of the agreement. The revised report and estimates are awaited from the Government of Madhya Pradesh.

Preparation for Parliamentary Elections in States

333. SHRI JHARKHANDE RAI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to complete its preparation for Parliamentary Elections in Uttar Pradesh and other States;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) how many parliamentary elections are to be conducted, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c). There are at present 12 vacancies in the House of the People and one vacancy in the Council of States. Out of the 12 vacancies in the House of the People, preparations have already been completed and the programme approved by the Election Commission for holding bye-elections in four cases, *viz.*, 14-Sabarkantha in Gujarat, 20-Ramtek, 6-Bombay Central and 42-Karad in Maharashtra. An appeal is pending in the Supreme Court of India in respect of the election from 12-Sangrur Parliamentary Constituency in Punjab and arrangements for holding the bye-election can be made only after the appeal is disposed of.

In respect of one vacancy in the Council of States from the State of Uttar Pradesh, the Election Commission has already approved a programme for holding the bye-election.

The statements giving details in respect of casual vacancies in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha (Statement I) and the dates for the various stages of elections in the House of the People and the Council of States (Statement II) are laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-5675/73].

C.O.B. Licences granted to certain Drug Firms for production of some items

334. SHRI K. S. CHAVDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether M/s. Sandoz Roche, Boroughs Welcome, May and Baker, Wyth, Boehinger Knoll and Glaxo have been granted C.O.B. licences and the items covered by each such licences;

(b) whether these items include certain items which were not actually produced before the crucial date but for which 'effective steps' are said to have been taken;

(c) if so, what exactly is the nature of 'effective steps' taken by each firm;

(d) whether the firms concerned had applied for permission to market, in respect of these items, under the Drugs Rules; and

(e) whether the Companies concerned had applied for approval of retail prices of these items, under the Drugs (Price Control) Orders, 1970?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The particulars of C.O.B. licences granted in these firms have been furnished in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 9529 dated the 8th May, 1973.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e). COB licences were/are being issued primarily based on the maximum production achieved during the period 1967 to 1970. Where actual production had not started, the 'effective steps' taken were also recognised. Such 'steps' basically considered are the availability of land and buildings and installation of requisite machinery. Where no additional plant and machinery was required, the effective steps considered were (i) finalisation of the manufacturing process, stabilisation of the recipe of the proposed preparations and approval under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and (ii) submission of applications/approval of prices under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1970. Applications for COB licences are also screened and examined by the DGTD and DGHS and their views are taken into account before finalising any proposal. COB licences were granted to foreign firms after approval of the Licensing Committee. Information on the nature of effective steps taken against each item by each firm referred to in (a) of the Question and information called for against (d) and (e) of the question is being compiled and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Diversification of production by Drug Firms

335. SHRI K. S. CHAVDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether M/s. Sandoz, Roche, Burroughs Wellcome, May and Baker, Wyeth, Boehringer Knoll and Glaxo had diversified their production by taking up production of new items under the diversification schemes announced by Government from time to time;

(b) if so, whether those firms applied for C.O.B. licences within the prescribed time-limit in respect of items covered by diversification; and

(c) whether any report was sent to the concerned authority about the items manufactured under the diversification scheme as required under the rules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All firms except Glaxo Laboratories Ltd. and Boehringer Knoll Ltd. applied within the prescribed time limit.

(c) This is being ascertained and the information will be laid on the Table of the House.

Formulation Capacity Covered by Permission and no objection letters for C.O.B. licences to foreign Drug Firms

336. SHRI K. S. CHAVDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total formulation capacity covered by the permission/no objection letters and C.O.B. licences issued to foreign drug firms;

(b) what is the total annual turnover in terms of value of the formulation capacity referred to in part (a); and

(c) how does the turnover compare with the total annual turnover in terms of value of the drugs and pharmaceuticals industry in this country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b). Information in regard to C.O.B. licences granted to firms with foreign equity exceeding 26 per cent during the last three years has already been furnished in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 9529 dated the 8th May, 1973. A statement is enclosed giving necessary particulars of C.O.B. licences issued subsequently. In the Registration Certificates and No objection/Permission letters granted to them over the last two decades, in most of the cases capacities have not been indicated.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the firm	Licence No. and date.	Item of manufacture	Capacity p.a.
1.	M/s. Smith Kline and French (India) Ltd., Bangalore.	L/22/484/73-Ch. III dated 29-9-73.	Tablets Liquids Ointments Capsules Powders Inhalers Injectables	918 lakhs 34,000 litres 1,55,300 kgs. 145 lakhs 43,310 kgs. 21,600 Nos. 3 lakhs Nos.
2.	M/s. Laboratories Grimault Pvt. Ltd.	L/22/486/73-Ch. III dated 8-10-73.	Tablets & Capsules Liquids (ltrs) Oinments (ltrs.) Solutions (ltrs.) Granules (Kgs.) Injectables (Kgs.) Injections (Litres)	381·08 lakhs 5·72 lakhs 2900 1900 16,500 4·80 lakhs 36

Additional C.O.B. Licences applied for by Drug Firms

337. SHRI K. S. CHAVDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether M/s. Sandoz, Roche, Burroughs Wellcome, May and Baker, Boehringer Knoll and Glaxo have applied for supplementary or additional C.O.B. Licences after the expiry of the date prescribed for such applications;

(b) if so, what are the reasons given for late submission of applications;

(c) on what dates these applications were received;

(d) what are the details furnished in such applications; that is, the item and capacity for which licences are required; and

(e) what checks Government propose to apply to find out that these are genuine applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) Yes, only one application from M/s. Glaxo Laboratories Ltd.

(b) A request for rationalisation of capacities was received from M/s. Glaxo Laboratories Ltd. in December, 1969. This was examined in the Ministry and the party advised in November, 1970 to put in a formal application. Under the circumstances the delay was condoned and application considered.

(c) 2nd March, 1971.

(d) In their application the party furnished details of their licensed/installed capacity, capacities allowed to them under various authorisations issued by the Government and their actual production during the years 1969-1971.

(e) According to the procedure in vogue, applications are scrutinised by the technical authorities and after their recommendations are received, the cases are put up to the Licensing Committee.

Profits Earned and Remittances made by Foreign Oil Companies

338. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the gross and net profits earned by each Foreign Oil Company viz., Burmah Shell, Esso and Caltex in India, year-wise during the last three years;

(b) the amount and percentage of dividend declared by each Company, year-wise, during the last three years;

(c) the amount of money remitted by each of these Companies under each head, year-wise, during the last three years; and

(d) whether Government are considering imposition of ceiling on remittances by those companies, and if not, why not?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

(d) This matter is presently under examination of the Government.

Controversy over Dieselisation Programmes

339. SHRI SHRIKISHAN MODI:
SHRI P. GANGADEB:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a sharp controversy between the Railways and the Planning Commission on the dieselisation programmes; and

(b) if so, whether the Railway Board has proposed a proportionately bigger increase in diesel locos than electric locos?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Report of Export Committee on Rise in Costs of Major Irrigation and Multi-Purpose Projects

340. SHRI SHRIKISHAN MODI: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Export Committee set up to study the rise in costs of major irrigation and multi-purpose projects has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the findings thereof; and

(c) the action Government propose to take on its recommendations?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Expert Committee have indicated that the important reasons of increase in costs are:—

(i) Increase in the period of construction due to paucity of funds and consequent long gestation period during which prices rise.

(ii) Continuous rise in cost of construction material and labour.

(iii) Inadequate investigations in some cases.

(iv) Inadequate provision in the original estimates.

(v) Change in the scope of projects to increase the benefits, after the estimates have been sanctioned.

(vi) Change in design, and additional requirements during construction.

(vii) Increase in land acquisition costs.

(viii) Increase in cost of rehabilitation measures and increase in scales of such measures.

(ix) Poor performance of indigenous equipment.

2. The important recommendations made by the Committee are:—

(i) To cover the effect of inflation over the long period of formulation and construction of project, the estimates should be enhanced after considering a suitable yearly escalation factor.

(ii) Projects should be properly investigated before submission of the feasibility reports. For very big projects costing over Rs. 30 crores, only an 'Investigation Estimate' should be sanctioned in the first stage.

(iii) Preparation of completion reports should be insisted upon and finalised within two to three years of commissioning the projects so that advantage may be taken of these reports in preparing estimates of future projects adequately.

(iv) Changes in scope should be avoided as far as possible. If such modification is included in the estimate it should be sanctioned as a 'modified estimate'.

(v) Because of the complex nature of projects every item and requirement cannot be visualised at the stage of preparation of feasibility report however adequate the investigations may have been. To make the estimate more realistic the estimated cost of works items should be enhanced with a suitable factor which may be called "Margin of error." The percentages necessary to be applied for the purpose have been suggested.

(vi) A broad national policy on rehabilitation should be evolved.

(vii) Projects should be planned in phases and taken up phase by phase. Once a project has been approved, funds should be made available fully for its execution.

(viii) A study should be made and revised outputs of indigenous equipment and machinery laid down for adopting as basis for preparation of estimates. Manufacturers of indigenous equipment should give better service to their customers.

(ix) Adequate delegation of powers, need for continuity of key personnel, training, and adoption of modern management techniques have been stressed.

(c) The report has been circulated to the State Governments, Union Territories and concerned Ministries and the Departments of the Central Government for their views on the Committee's recommendations. The Report is also proposed to be discussed in the next Conference of the State Ministers of Irrigation and Power.

Report of the Committee appointed to review the working of the Institute of Constitutional and Parliamentary Studies

341. SHRI SHRIKISHAN MODI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee appointed under the Chairmanship of Prof. Tripathi to review the working of the Institute of Constitutional and Parliamentary Studies, New Delhi has submitted its report;

(b) if so, what are its findings; and

(c) what action Government propose to take on its recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The findings and recommendations of the Committee are under consideration of the Government.

Measures to curb Consumption of Petroleum Products

342. SHRI SHRIKISHAN MODI:

SHRI MUHAMMED SHERIFF:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering measures to curb the consumption of petroleum products; and

(b) if so, the measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b). The information in this connection was laid on the Table of the House in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4278 answered on 28-4-1972.

Increase in the Incidents of Robberies in running trains in West Bengal

343. SHRI R. N. BARMAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in the incidents of robberies in the running trains specially in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefore and the steps taken or being taken to check such crimes?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) Yes, there has been some increase in the incidence of robberies in running trains on the Railways. However, cases of robberies in trains in the portion of West Bengal are on the decline.

(b) The increase is attributed to the prevailing law and order conditions in the country.

The following preventive measures are being taken to check such crimes on the Railways.

1. To the extent possible Government Railway Police escorts are provided on all important night passenger trains to ensure safety of passengers in the affected areas.

2. R.P.F. staff have been directed to extend active co-operation to Government Railway Police and Civil Police in tracking down criminals responsible for such incidents on the Railways.

3. Close liaison is maintained with the Government Railway Police and Civil Police to keep strict surveillance over bad characters operating in the Sections.

4. In West Bengal portion a system of haunting patrols has been introduced. Action is also under way to form resistance groups to tackle such crimes on Railways.

5. Concerned at the growing incidence of crime affecting passengers like murder, robbery and dacoity in trains/railway premises in the States of U.P., Bihar and West Bengal, Minister of Railways addressed letters to the Chief Ministers of these States on 2-11-72 and requested to provide armed guards on important passenger trains particularly in badly affected areas. The Minister of Railways also held a high level meeting with the Home Ministers and high officials of some States on 21-3-73 in this connection so that greater security could be provided to the travelling public. As a result of this meeting a working group consisting of senior officers of Central and State Governments has been formed to thoroughly examine the various suggestions made at the meeting and to suggest measures for effectively tackling the problem.

The working group has so far held one meeting at which it was unanimously agreed that there is an urgent need to augment the strength of Government Railway Police. The State Governments, however, expressed their inability to meet this additional expenditure and desired that the Central Government should bear the cost of expenditure on this augmentation by giving grants-in-aid. Accordingly a memorandum has been submitted to the Finance Commission.

Set-Back to Commissioning Schedules of Power Projects due to strike by Power Engineers

344. SHRI R. N. BARMAN: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the commissioning schedules of power projects in the Fourth Plan suffered a set-back due to recent country-wide strike by Power Engineers;

(b) if so, the State-wise position thereof; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to deal with set-back?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) to (c). A quantitative assessment of the delay in the commissioning of the various projects, State-wise, attributable solely to the strike by power engineers has not been made. The State Electricity Boards and other agencies responsible for the execution of power projects have been advised to identify the bottlenecks responsible for delay in the progress of the power projects and their completion on schedule and to make concerted efforts to make good the lost time to the extent possible. All assistance needed by the State Electricity Boards etc. in this regard from the public sector equipment suppliers, the Central Water and Power Commission and other agencies of the Government of India has been assured.

Progress made with regard to underground Railway Work in Calcutta

345. SHRI R. N. BARMAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has so far been made with regard to the underground Railway work in Calcutta;

(b) what are the main difficulties and obstacles in starting the work; and

(c) the number of people exclusively engaged for this work?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) The construction work of Calcutta underground railway has already been commenced. Work in section 1 (elevated portion at Dum Dum end) is in progress. Tenders opened for two more sections, namely 2 and 11, are under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The total number of employees with Metropolitan Transport Project Organisation is 971.

बिजली इंजीनियरों की हड़ताल के कारण रेलगाड़ियों का निलम्बित किया जाना

346. **श्री शिव कुमार शास्त्री :** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या बिजली इंजीनियरों की हड़ताल के कारण पिछले कुछ महीनों में रेल गाड़ियों को कई स्थानों पर निलम्बित करना पड़ा था ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके परिणामस्वरूप रेलवे को कितनी हानि उठानी पड़ी, और

(ग) भविष्य में ऐसी स्थिति को रोकने के लिए सरकार ने क्या कार्यवाही की है?

रेल मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री मुहम्मद शफ़ी कुरेशी) : (क) जी हां। अक्तूबर, 1973 के पहले दस दिनों में उत्तर रेलवे के बिजलीयुक्त टूंडला-मुगलसराय खण्ड तथा पूर्व रेलवे के निकटवर्ती मुख्य लाइन खण्डों पर, उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य बिजली बोर्ड के कर्मचारियों की कथित गतिविधियों के कारण बिजली की सप्लाई में व्यवधान पड़ने से सवारी एवं माल गाड़ियां रद्द तथा नियमित करनी पड़ीं।

(ख) लगभग 8 लाख रुपये।

(ग) निम्नलिखित उपाय किये गये हैं:—

(1) सिंचाई एवं बिजली मंत्रालय, राज्य सरकारों तथा राज्य बिजली बोर्डों से निकट सम्पर्क ।

(2) पानी की आवश्यक सप्लाई, स्टेशन पर बिजली की रोशनी आदि चालू रखने के लिए, जहां कहीं संभव हो, सुवाह्य जनित्रों का उपयोग ।

(3) रेल, सिंचाई एवं बिजली मंत्रालय, योजना आयोग तथा राज्य सरकारों के परामर्श से, विद्युतीकृत खण्डों के लिए अपने निजी बिजली घरों की स्थापना पर भी विचार कर रही हैं ।

वाण सागर परियोजना पर करार

347. **श्री रामावतार शास्त्री :**
श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह :

क्या **सिंचाई और विद्युत्** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या बिहार, मध्य प्रदेश और उत्तर प्रदेश की सरकारों के मध्य वाणसागर परियोजना पर कोई समझौता हो गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसकी मुख्य बातें क्या हैं; और

(ग) उक्त करार से उत्पन्न होने वाले मामलों पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

सिंचाई और विद्युत् मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री सिद्धेश्वर प्रसाद) : (क) जी, हां।

(ख) करार के अन्तर्गत सोन जल का 7.75 मिलियन एकड़ फुट बिहार को, 5.25 मिलियन एकड़ फुट मध्य प्रदेश को और 1.25 मिलियन एकड़ फुट उत्तर प्रदेश को आबंटित किया गया है। सोन बराज से बिहार में पुरानी सिंचाई के स्थान पर प्राथमिकतापूर्ण इस्तेमाल के रूप में सोन नदी के प्रवाह में से 5 मिलियन एकड़ फुट जल लिया जाएगा।

वाणसागर परियोजना में, जोकि सोन नदी पर अपेक्षित नयी परियोजनाओं में से एक है; मध्य प्रदेश सिंचाई के लिए दो मिलियन एकड़ फुट का जल-संचय इस्तेमाल करेगा जब कि उत्तर प्रदेश और बिहार एक-एक मिलियन एकड़ फुट जल का इस्तेमाल करेंगे। साझे कार्यों की लागत को भी राज्यों द्वारा उसी अनुपात में बांटा जाएगा। मध्य प्रदेश बांध के नीचे की ओर विद्युत् विकास कर सकता है और केवल ऐसे जल का इस्तेमाल करके सिंचाई प्रपात पर विद्युत् विकास कर सकता है जो कि वास्तव में सिंचाई के लिए आवश्यक होगा।

वाणसागर जलाशय के भरने तथा इस्तेमाल करने के नियमन के नियमावली एक समिति द्वारा बनाई जाएगी जिसमें अध्यक्ष, केन्द्रीय जल और विद्युत् आयोग और तीनों राज्यों में मुख्य अभियन्ता शामिल होंगे ।

(ग) यह संतोष की बात है कि सम्बद्ध राज्यों ने दीर्घकालीन विचार विमर्श के पश्चात् अपनी आपसी संतुष्टी के साथ एक करार तैयार किया है जिससे इन राज्यों के रीवा, मिर्जापुर और पलामाऊ क्षेत्रों में चिरकाल सूखाग्रस्त क्षेत्रों को सहायता पहुंचाने के लिए नयी परियोजनाओं को शुरू करना संभव हो गया है।

राज्यों में विद्युत् संकट

348. **श्री रामावतार शास्त्री** : क्या **सिंचाई और विद्युत् मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या देश के अधिकांश राज्यों में विद्युत् संकट के कारण उद्योगों, सिंचाई और अन्य विकास कार्यों पर बुरा प्रभाव पड़ा है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संकट के क्या कारण हैं ?

सिंचाई और विद्युत् मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री सिद्धेश्वर प्रसाद) : (क) विद्युत् की कमी से उद्योग, सिंचाई और अन्य विकास कार्यों के प्रभावित होने की संभावना है। बहरहाल, सिंचाई और महत्वपूर्ण भारों जैसे रेल, कोयले की खानों, इस्पात उद्योग आदि को प्राथमिकता दे कर अर्थ-व्यवस्था पर पड़ने वाले प्रभावों को न्यूनतम किया गया है।

(ख) बिजली की कमी, उद्योगों और कृषि के लिए बिजली के बढ़ते हुए उपयोगों के कारण मांग में हुई वृद्धि की तुलना में उत्पादन में अपर्याप्त वृद्धि तथा अपर्याप्त पारेषण सुविधाओं के कारण हुई है। पिछले वर्ष जल विद्युत् उत्पादन के लिए अपर्याप्त पानी की सप्लाई के कारण विद्युत् उत्पादन में पर्याप्त कमी आई जिसके कारण विद्युत् संकट पैदा हुआ। परमाणु विद्युत् उत्पादन के अनुरक्षण में कठिनाईयों और नेवेली में लिगनाइट की अपर्याप्त उपलब्धता के कारण भी समस्याओं का सामना करना पड़ा।

पटना जंक्शन रेलवे स्टेशन के विकास की योजना

349. **श्री रामावतार शास्त्री** : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने पूर्वी रेलवे के पटना जंकशन रेलवे स्टेशन के विकास के लिए कोई योजना तैयार की है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) सरकार उसकी क्रियान्विति कब तक करना चाहती है ?

रेल मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री मुहम्मद शफ़ी कुरेशी) : (क) सर्वेक्षण किया गया है और रिपोर्ट मिल गई है।

(ख) यातायात की आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करने के लिए अतिरिक्त यार्ड लाइनों, यात्री प्लेटफार्मों की व्यवस्था और स्टेशन की इमारत में परिवर्तन करने का विचार है।

(ग) अभी हाल में रिपोर्ट को अन्तिम रूप दिया गया है और उसकी जांच की जा रही है। सभी पहलुओं से रिपोर्ट की जांच पूरी कर लेने के बाद दी जाने वाली सुविधाओं और निर्माण कार्यक्रम के बारे में विनिश्चय किया जायेगा।

Report of Committee to look into the grievances of Loco Running Staff

350. SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASHTRI:
SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Committee appointed to work out a settlement regarding the grievances of Loco Running staff has completed its work;

(b) if so, the terms of settlement; and

(c) if not, what is the delay?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI (MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) to (c). The Committee has not yet completed its work and is due to meet next on the 29th November 1973. The principal outstanding issue relates to the mode and manner of implementation of 10-hour working for Loco Running Staff.

In the mean time, Railway Administrations have been directed to set up a special organization to ensure that all arrangements required in connection with the full implementation of 10-hour working are made on top priority basis.

Sale of passenger Tickets at Howrah and Sealdah Stations on 27th June and 27th July, 1973

351. SHRI S. P. BHATTACHARYYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the total passenger tickets sold at Howrah Station and Sealdah Staion in rupees on the 27th June, 1973 and 27th July, 1973?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD .SHAFI QURESHI): The earnings from the sale of passenger tickets at Howrah and Sealdah Stations on the dates in question were as follows:—

On 27th June, 1973:

At Howrah—Rs. 2,47,503.

At Sealdah—Rs 53,299.

On 27th July, 1973:

At Howrah—Rs. 68,925.

At Sealdah—Rs. 7,538.

The lesser earnings on 27th July, 1973, were due to Bangla Bandh on that day.

निर्वाचनों को कम खर्चीला बनाने हेतु निर्वाचन कानून में प्रस्तावित संशोधन

352. **श्री मूलचन्द डागा** : क्या **विधि, न्याय और कम्पनी कार्य** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार कोई ऐसा कानून बनाना चाहती है अथवा वर्तमान कानून में संशोधन करना चाहती है जिससे लोक सभा तथा विधान सभा के निर्वाचनों को कम खर्चीला बनाया जा सके; और

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ?

विधि, न्याय और कम्पनी कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री नीतिराज सिंह चौधरी): (क) और (ख). निर्वाचन-विधि में संशोधन सम्बन्धी संयुक्त समिति ने जो सिफारिशें की हैं, उनका एक निहित उद्देश्य यह भी है कि निर्वाचनों को कम खर्चीला बनाया जाए और समिति की सिफारिशों पर सरकार के विनिश्चयों के सम्बन्ध में यह है कि लोक प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम, 1950 और 1951 दोनों में संशोधन करने के लिए एक विधेयक, संसद के चालू सत्र के दौरान पुरःस्थापित किए जाने की संभावना है ।

रेलवे सुरक्षा दल के कर्मचारियों का कार्य

353. **श्री मूलचन्द डागा** : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या रेलवे सुरक्षा दल पर प्रति-वर्ष 12 करोड़ रूपया व्यय होता है जबकि चोरी के मामले प्रति वर्ष बढ़ते जा रहे हैं और यदि हां, तो क्या रेलवे सुरक्षा दल को उपयोगी बनाने के लिए जिससे कि चोरी की घटनाओं को प्रभावी ढंग से रोका जा सके और यदि हां, तो इसे कब तक सुधारा जा सकेगा और यह सुधार कैसे किया जायेगा; और

(ख) रेलवे सुरक्षा बल के कितने कर्मचारियों को कार्य में लापरवाही के लिए दंडित किया गया, यह बताते हुए कि उनके वर्ग क्या है, उन्हें किस प्रकार के दंड दिये गये, और कितने व्यक्तियों की सेवायें पिछले तीन वर्ष में भंग कर दी गई ?

रेल मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री मुहम्मद शफ़ी कुरेशी) : (क) पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान सुरक्षा दल पर वार्षिक खर्च, 1970-71 में 12·64 करोड़ रुपये, 1971-72 में 13·75 करोड़ रुपये और 1972-73 में 14·92 करोड़ रुपये (लगभग) हुआ। चोरियों और उठाईगीरी के रोकथाम में रेलवे सुरक्षा दल को सफलता आंकने का सूचक वह राशि होती है जिसका क्षतिपूर्ति के दावों के रूप में रेलों द्वारा भुगतान किया जाता है। रेलवे सुरक्षा दल द्वारा किये गये प्रयासों के फलस्वरूप, वर्षानुवर्ष पण्य पदार्थों की कीमतों में वृद्धि होने के बावजूद रेलों द्वारा क्षतिपूर्ति के दावों के रूप में भुगतान की गई राशि में 1971-72 की तुलना में 1972-73 में 40·23 लाख रुपयों की कमी हुई है।

और अधिक सुधार करने के उद्देश्य से रेलवे सुरक्षा दल के पुनर्गठन की एक परियोजना को 1-11-73 से कार्यान्वित किया गया है। रेलवे सुरक्षा दल के वर्तमान ढांचे में, पुनर्गठन के फलस्वरूप निम्नलिखित महत्वपूर्ण परिवर्तन किये जा रहे हैं :—

(1) वर्तमान वर्दीधारी और सशस्त्र शाखाओं का विलयन और उसमें से मानक कम्पनी पैटर्न पर एक जांच पड़ताल शाखा, एक अभियोजन शाखा और एक सुरक्षा शाखा का सृजन जिनमें सशस्त्र कर्मचारियों का प्रतिशत अधिक होगा।

(2) अन्वेषण अभियोजना शाखा के कर्मचारियों की संख्या में वृद्धि और उसका विकेन्द्रीकरण ताकि मण्डलों में वह सुचारु रूप से कार्य कर सके।

(3) मण्डलीय एवं मुख्यालय स्तर पर प्रशासनिक परिवर्तन।

(4) जहां सम्भव हो, वहां निश्चित स्थान पर ड्यूटी के बजाय हलका-बबगश्ती ड्यूटीयां लगा कर दल के काम के तरीकों में परिवर्तन।

(5) दल की गतिशीलता में सुधार करने के उद्देश्य से पर्याप्त संख्या में मोटर वाहनों की व्यवस्था।

(6) सभी स्तरों पर बेहतर पर्यवेक्षण करने के उद्देश्य से, तीसरी और चौथी श्रेणी सहित, पर्यवेक्षण पदों की संख्या में वृद्धि।

(ख) एक विवरण सभा पटल पर रखा है जिसमें पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान रेलवे सुरक्षा दल के अलग-अलग पदों के कर्मचारियों को दिये गये दण्ड दिखाये गये हैं। [ग्रन्थालय में रखा गया। देखिए संख्या एल-टी--5676/73]

वर्ष 1971 अथवा 1972 के दौरान कम्पनी अधिनियम की धारा 233ए के अधीन कम्पनियों का विशेष लेखा परीक्षा

354. **श्री मूलचन्द डागा** : क्या विधि, न्याय और कम्पनी कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या वर्ष 1971 या 1972 के दौरान किसी कम्पनी अथवा कम्पनियों के लेखे की विशेष लेखा परीक्षा कम्पनी अधिनियम की धारा 233 ए के अधीन की गई थी ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या परिणाम निकले ?

विधि, न्याय और कम्पनी कार्य मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री बेदब्रत बरुआ) : (क) प्रश्न में निर्देशित अवधि के मध्य, कम्पनी अधिनियम 1956 की धारा 233 क के अन्तर्गत विशेष लेखा-परीक्षा के आदेश छः कम्पनियों के बारे में दिये गये थे।

(ख) ऊपर निर्देशित छः विषयों में से केवल 2 में विशेष लेखा-परीक्षा की रिपोर्ट प्राप्त हुई हैं। उनमें से एक विषय में, कम्पनी अधिनियम के उल्लंघनों को निर्दिष्ट करने के साथ-साथ, उस समय के प्रबंध निदेशक द्वारा किये गये अपहरणों का भी निर्देश था। अतः इसको पुनः जांच-पड़ताल के लिये केन्द्रीय जांच ब्यूरो से पहुंच की गई। उन्होंने बताया है कि इस अपहरण के लिये आपराधिक उत्तरदायित्व निश्चित करना असम्भव होगा। कम्पनी अधिनियम के उल्लंघनों के लिये, कम्पनी द्वारा कार्यवाही की जायेगी। दूसरे विषय में, विशेष लेखा-परीक्षक भूतपूर्व अध्यक्ष द्वारा कुछ ऋणों, जिसका लेखा प्रस्तुत करने में वह असफल रहे, के दुरूपयोग करने की संभावना को प्रकाश में लायें। पहुंच करने पर केन्द्रीय जांच ब्यूरो ने, स्थानीय पुलिस द्वारा जांच-पड़ताल का परामर्श दिया है।

संगणक लगान, डिजलीकरण और विद्युतीकरण के कारण कर्मचारियों की संख्या में कमी

355. **श्री मूलचन्द डागा** : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या संगणक लगाने, डिजलीकरण और रेलपथ के विद्युतीकरण के पश्चात् रेलवे प्रशासन द्वारा किन्हीं कर्मचारियों को फालतू घोषित किया गया था और यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ; और

(ख) क्या 1970-71 में रेलवे प्रशासन द्वारा कर्मचारियों पर कुल राजस्व का 53·4 प्रतिशत खर्च किया गया और यदि हां, तो उसे कम करने के लिये कौन-कौन से पग उठाये जा रहे हैं ?

रेल मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री मुहम्मद शफ़ी कुरेशी) : (क) जी हां । ऐसे फालतू कर्मचारियों को जहां आवश्यक हुआ परिवर्तन प्रशिक्षण देकर वैकल्पिक नौकरियों में रख लिया गया ।

(ख) 1970-71 में कुल आमदनी के अनुपात में कर्मचारियों पर आने वाली लागत का प्रतिशत 45·6 प्रतिशत आता है । कर्मचारियों की संख्या में यथासंभव वृद्धि को रोकने के लिए प्रत्येक प्रयास किया जा रहा है । कर्मचारियों पर होने वाले खर्च में भी जहां संभव है किफायत की जा रही है ।

औषध (मूल्य नियंत्रण) आदेश, 1970 के अन्तर्गत दवाई विक्रेताओं को दिया गया दण्ड

356. **श्री मूलचन्द डागा** : क्या पैट्रोलियम और रसायन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) 1970 में जारी किये गये औषध (मूल्य नियंत्रण) आदेश का सर्वप्रथम कब संशोधन किया गया और इसके क्या कारण हैं ; और

(ख) औषध (मूल्य नियंत्रण) आदेश, 1970 के अन्तर्गत गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान कितने दवाई विक्रेताओं का चालान किया गया और दवाई विक्रेताओं को क्या-क्या दंड मिला ?

पैट्रोलियम और रसायन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री शाहनवाज खां) : (क) 16 मई, 1970 को जारी किया गया औषध मूल्य नियंत्रण आदेश पहली बार 15 जून, 1970 को, आदेश में कुछ परिभाषाओं को सम्मिलित करने के लिये तथा उनका विस्तार करने के लिये संशोधित किया गया ताकि वे और अधिक सुस्पष्ट हों इसके अतिरिक्त केन्द्रीय सरकार को या उसके किसी अधिकृत अधिकारी को यह अधिकार दिया गया था कि वह सूत्रयोग निर्माताओं प्रपुंज औषधों के विक्रय के लिये कुछ निर्दिष्ट घटकों को ध्यान में रखते हुये निर्माताओं को आदेश दे सकें । मार्कअप प्रार्थनाओं के पेश किये जाने की अवधि तथा थोक विक्रेताओं की कमीशन आदि से संबंधित कुछ संशोधन भी किये गये थे ।

(ख) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सभा पटल पर प्रस्तुत की जायेगी ।

Power Cut in States

357. SHRI S. N. MISRA:

SHRI S. A. MURUGANANTHAM:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state the extent of curtailment affected in supply of power in each of the States due to power crisis prevalent at present in the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): The details of restrictions imposed by the States where there is power shortage at present are given in the attached Statement.

Statement

Northern Region	
Haryana	(a) Supply to all industrial consumers cut off between 6 P.M. to 9.00 P.M.
	(b) Supply to rural feeders for 18 hours a day.
J&K	Peak load restrictions in the Valley area.
Uttar Pradesh	(a) Supply in urban area is switched off for twohours a day from 7 A.M. to 9 P.M.
	(b) Supply in rural areas is switched off from 12 hours a day from 9.00 A.M. to 9.00 P.M.
	(c) Non continuous industries in urban area are allowed to use power 5 days in a week for 9 hours a day from 9 A.M. to 6 P.M. Power looms and spinning portion of textile mills are allowed one additional shift from 10 P.M. to 7 A.M.
	(d) Continuous industries are required to observe block closure of 10 days in a month or to reduce the demand by 50 per cent. Fertiliser and Vanaspati are exempted.
	(e) Cinemas in Urban areas are not permitted to run shows between 3.30 P.M. to 6.30 P.M.
	(f) Cold storages are allowed to use power for 18 hours a day. In urban area the timings are from 9 A.M. to 6 P.M. and from 10 p.M. to 7 A.M. next day. While in rural area the timings are from 10 P.M. to 4 P.M. next day.
	(g) Steel and furnaces of the State have been divided into two groups. Each group is allowed power on alternate weeks.
	(h) Lift Pumps Canals having separate feeders have also been divided into two groups. Each group is allowed power on alternate Weeks.
	(i) All new industrial connections have been banned.
	(j) In addition to the above there is 40 per cent energy cut on the basis of actual aveage consumption during the period from July, 1971 to June, 1972.
Chandigarh	30 per cent cut on industrial consumers.
Western Region	
Maharashtra	Load/holiday staggering
Goa	10 per cent cut on H.T. consumers.
Southern Region	
Andhra Pradesh	The demand cut of 10 per cent on H.T. consumers.
Karnataka	20 per cent energy cut on H.T. industries.
Tamil Nadu	Energy cut of 15 per cent on all classes of consumer except agricultural consumers.
Eastern Region	
DVC West Bengal	Peak load restrictions depending on availability.
Bihar	Power cuts ranging from 20 to 30 per cent in the six districts served by DVC.
North-Eastern Region	
Upper Assam	Peak load restrictions.

No power cut have been imposed in the other States viz. Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Delhi, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala and Orissa.

Setting up of a Committee for Selection of Sites for Thermal Power Stations in different Regions.

358. SHRI S. N. MISRA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had set up any Committee for the selection of sites for setting up a large thermal power stations in different regions of the country;

(b) if so, whether the Committee has since submitted its report to Government; and

(c) what are the places where these plants would be set up?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) to (c). A Committee has been set up to select suitable sites for large thermal stations. The Committee has already started its work but has not yet submitted its report.

Term of Company Law Board's Nominees on Board of Directors of National Rayon Corporation

359. SHRI S. N. MISRA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Company Law Board has recently decided not to extend the term of its nominees the Board of Directors of National Rayan Corporation inspite of adverse reports against the Kapadias; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA): (a) No, Sir. The term of the nominees has been extended for a period of one year from 30th June, 1973.

(b) Does not arise.

Applications for expansion of Units from some Foreign Drug Firms

360. SHRI S. N. MISRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some foreign drug manufacturing companies have applied to Government for expansion of their units;

(b) if so, the names of such companies who have applied during the last six months;

(c) the nature of expansion sought; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-5677/1973].

Proposal to Establish Oil Refineries in Coastal States

361. SHRI P. R. SHENOY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the coastal States in which there is no petroleum refinery at all at present; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to locate any refinery in these States in the next ten years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) Mysore, Goa and Orissa. A refinery is under construction at Haldia in West Bengal.

(b) There is no proposal presently under Government's consideration to set up a refinery in these States.

Engineering Survey between Dasgaon and Panambur for Railway Line between Bombay and Mangalore

362. SHRI P. R. SHENOY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether final engineering survey between Dasgoan and Panambur is necessary to complete the Railway line between Bombay and Mangalore;

(b) if so, whether this final survey has commenced; and

(c) if not, the reason for the delay?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) The question of sanctioning the Final Location Engineering Survey for the link between Dasgaon Mangalore is under consideration.

Completion of Major Irrigation projects

363. SHRI P. R. SHENOY: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to states:

(a) the names of major irrigation projects in the country that are pending completion; and

(b) when these projects are expected to be completed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) A list of major continuing schemes in the country is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-5678/73].

(b) All the schemes are expected to be completed in the Fifth Plan except Western. Kosi (Bihar), Kallada (Kerala), Warna and Krishna (Maharashtra), Upper Krishna and Malaprabha (Karnataka), Mahanadi Delta (Orissa), Rajasthan Canal Stage II(Rajasthan), Tehri and Sarda Sahayak (Uttar Pradesh), which may spill over into the Sixth Plan.

Preference to Nuclear and Thermal Power Projects over Hydel Power Projects

364. SHRI P. R. SHENOY: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the hydel power projects that are being executed at present in India and what are the projects that are considered for execution in the Fifth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether nuclear power projects and thermal power projects are preferred to hydel power projects by the Government of India; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) Names of hydro power projects now under construction are given in Statement—I laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library See* No. LT-5679/73]. The names of hydel projects construction of which is to be taken up during the Fifth Five Year Plan are given in Statement-II laid on the Table of the House [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-5679/73].

(b) and (c). No, Sir, Hydro-nuclear and thermal power projects have each to play a role of their own in the overall development of power. The selection is made on the basis of relative economics, load requirements, comprehensive usage of water resources, availability of fossil fuels, transport facilities and costs, and number of other techno-economic factors.

Financial Assistance for Electrification of Villages in Gujarat

365. SHRI PRABHUDAS PATEL: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an amount of Rs. 94 crore has been sanctioned by the Rural Electrification Corporation to the State Electricity Boards in 1972-73 for electrifying rural areas;

(b) if so, how much out of this amount has been sanctioned to Gujarat State Electricity Board;

(c) whether the rural electrification in Gujarat has not achieved much success; and

(d) what steps are being taken to help and improve rural electrification in Gujarat during 1973-74?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) and (b). During the year 1972-73, the Rural Electrification Corporation sanctioned loan assistance of Rs. 93.21 crores in respect of 200 schemes of 17 State Electricity Boards in the country. Out of this the Corporation sanctioned 11 schemes for Gujarat Electricity Board involving loan assistance of Rs. 3.52 crores.

(c) The progress of rural electrification in Gujarat during the Fourth Plan has been satisfactory. As against 2,869 villages which were electrified in the beginning of the Fourth Plan the number of villages electrified upto August, 1973 is 5,445. The percentage of village electrification in Gujarat is 29.2 compared to the All India average of 25.3. Similarly in regard to energisation of pumpsets, as against 42,085 energised at the commencement of Fourth Plan, the number of pumpsets energised upto August 1973 was 94,400.

(d) The programme of rural electrification is formulated and implemented by the State Electricity Boards from funds provided under the State's Plan outlay. Additive finances are provided by the Centre through the Rural Electrification Corporation and so far 25 schemes involving loan assistance of Rs. 11.84 crores have been sanctioned by the Rural Electrification Corporation for Gujarat. This includes one scheme sanctioned during the year 1973-74 involving loan assistance of Rs. 89.73 lakhs. Three schemes estimated to cost Rs. 15.74 lakhs are presently under consideration with the Corporation. The Corporation will be considering the sanction of loan assistance in respect of these schemes as well as any additional schemes that may be sponsored by the State Electricity Board if the same are found to be technically feasible and financially viable.

Expansion of Generation of Power by Ahmedabad Electricity Company

366. SHRI PRABHUDAS PATEL:

SHRI P. M MEHTA:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have cleared an expansion programme for the Ahmedabad Electricity Company for the generation of 110 MW of thermal power;

(b) if so, when;

(c) whether the Union Government have also decided to help the Company in this regard; and

(d) the total cost of expenditure involved on the expansion programme?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir In August 1973 the Government of Gujarat have been intimated that there is no objection to the installation of a 110 MW set by the Ahmedabad Electricity Company in their Sabarmati Station as a part of their replacement-cum-rationalisation scheme.

(c) No such request has been made by the Ahmedabad Electricity Company.

(d) The project is estimated to cost Rs. 24.81 crores.

Trial Production of Oil by O and NGC from Tabka Wells in Gujarat

367. SHRI PRABHUDAS PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission is likely to start trial production of oil from the Oil and Natural Gas Commission's well at Tabka, 18 km from Jambusar in Broach District in Gujarat;

(b) if so, when it is to be started;

(c) whether Oil and Natural Gas Commission has so far drilled eight wells around Tabka; and

(d) if so, what is the total quantity of gas expected from these wells?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b). Trial production from Well No. Dabka-4 has already been started on September 24, 1973.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Information regarding production from individual fields is treated as confidential and it would not be in the public interest to divulge it.

Participation of Railway Board in proposed Ganga Bridge Project at Patna

368. SHRI VARKEY GEORGE:

SHRI MUHAMMED SHERIFF.

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the answer given on the 17th April, 1973 to Unstarred Question No. 7278 regarding participation of Railway Board in the proposed Ganga Bridge Project at Patna and state:

(a) whether the question of Railway's participation in the proposed Ganga Bridge Project at Patna has since been considered; and

(b) if so, the main features of the decisions arrived at?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) Yes.

(b) The proposal was not found feasible on account of technical, financial and also security considerations. However, a survey for construction of a separate rail bridge at a suitable site in the reach between Kanpur-Allahabad-Mokameh-Monghyr has been sanctioned and the work is in progress.

World Bank Loan for Indian Railways

369. SHRI MUHAMMED SHERIFF:

SHRI VASANT SATHE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any loan has recently been negotiated from the World Bank for Railways in the country; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines of the projects, the amount of loan sanctioned, and the progress achieved in this regard so far?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) An agreement for a Credit from the International Development Association, an affiliate of the World Bank, was signed on January 24, 1972.

Another IDA Credit is currently being negotiated.

(b) The Credit Agreement signed on January 24, 1972 is for a sum equivalent to U.S. Dollars 75 million. This credit will finance foreign exchange payment on the purchase of components and raw materials for the manufacture of diesel and electric locomotives, electric multiple units, coaches and wagons, equipment and materials for line capacity works, electrical works, rails, signalling and telecommunication schemes and electrification schemes, plant and machinery and sundry railway equipment and material

As on 30th September, 1973 a sum equivalent to U. S. Dollars 59 million had been drawn, bulk of it for components and raw materials for Rolling Stock. Further applications amounting to U. S. Dollars 6 million were under process with the Bank.

Electrification of Villages of U.P. by R E C.

370. SHRI R. K. SINHA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rural Electrification Corporation of India formulated any plan for the electrification of rural areas in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof, the financial assistance sought and sanctioned to the State and the number of villages electrified under the plan so far; and

(c) the financial assistance sanctioned and the number of villages proposed to be electrified during the current year in Uttar Pradesh?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) and (b). The Rural Electrification schemes to be financed by Rural Electrification Corporation are formulated and sponsored by the State Electricity Boards. The Corporation considers such schemes and if they are found to be technically feasible and financially viable, sanctions loan assistance for them. The corporation has so far sanctioned 58 schemes of Uttar Pradesh Electricity Board involving loan assistance of Rs. 33.16 crores. Besides, loan assistance of Rs 2.43 crores has also been given to one Pilot Rural Electric Co-operative Project at Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh. 9 Schemes costing Rs. 3.98 crores are presently under consideration of the Corporation. The schemes sanctioned by the Corporation are phased to be completed over a period of 3—5 years and the schemes are, therefore, still under execution. About 600 villages have been electrified upto September, 1973.

(c) During the year 1973-74, the Corporation has sanctioned upto October, 1973, 10 schemes involving loan assistance of Rs. 4.55 crores. 300 villages are expected to be electrified during the year 1973-74 under the schemes sanctioned by Rural Electrincation Corporation

Conversion of Metre Gauge Line into Broad Gauge Line during Fourth Five Year Plan

371. SHRI R. K. SINHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the length of metre gauge track converted into broad gauge in the country during the Fourth Five Year Plan period so far;

(b) the length of metre gauge railway track converted into broad gauge in Uttar Pradesh during the same period and the proposal of Government in this regard for the year 1973-74; and

(c) the total length of metre gauge Railway track to be left after the conversion as mentioned in parts (a) and (b) above?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) 326.30 kms.

(b) No metre gauge lines were converted into broad gauge in Uttar Pradesh in the Fourth Five Year Plan. However, conversion of 604 kms long Barabanki-Samastipur metre gauge section, of which 352.10 kms fall in Uttar Pradesh and which was sanctioned in April, 1972 i.e. during the Fourth Plan period itself, is in progress. The conversion work is expected to be completed by 31-3-1977.

(c) The total route kilometerage of metre gauge lines in the country after conversion of 326.30 kms vide (a) above, is 25.547 kms out of which 1661 kms including 604 kms vide (b) above, are already under conversion.

Collision of Lucknow-Sultanpur passenger train with a bus in September, 1973

372. SHRI R. K. SINHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Lucknow-Sultanpur passenger train collided with a bus full of passengers near Lucknow on the 11th September, 1973;

(b) if so, the number of persons killed or injured in the accident; and

(c) the extent of compensation paid to the next of kins of the persons killed and to the injured?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) Yes.

(b) In this accident 10 bus passengers were killed and another 19 injured of whom 9 were hurt grievously.

(c) No compensation has been paid so far to any of the injured or to the next of kin of the passengers killed.

Theft of cash from City Booking Office, Calcutta in September, 1973 (Eastern Railway)

373 SHRI R. K. SINHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a sum of Rs. one lakh and twelve thousand was stolen from the City Booking Office, Calcutta of Eastern Railway in the last week of September, 1973;

(b) whether the culprits have been traced out and the money recovered; and

(c) if so, the action taken against the thieves and if not, the reasons for which the efforts made to apprehend the culprits could not be successful?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) Yes, on 24-9-73, a theft of Railway cash amounting to Rs. 1,13,522.80 by breaking safe, lock and seals of the cash safe kept inside the ticket stock room of 3rd class booking office, Fairlie Place (Eastern Railway), Calcutta was reported.

(b) and (c). Hare Street Police Station, Calcutta registered a case No. 668 dated 24-9-73 under section 457/380 IPC. One person has been arrested but no recovery of stolen money has been made so far. Police investigations continue.

Proposal for setting up of a fertilizer plant at Kakinada

374. SHRI K. KODANDA RAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any private firm has applied for setting up a fertilizer factory at Kakinada;

(b) the proposed capacity of the plant, the amount of investment and the name of the applicant; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) to (c). Two proposals have been received for setting up a fertilizer plant at Kakinada in the private sector. No decision has yet been taken on these proposals.

Power shortage

375. SHRI V. MAYAVAN:

SHRI P. M. MEHTA:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country is still facing acute shortage of power despite heavy rains and if so, the main reasons therefor;

(b) whether his Ministry had prepared a programme to achieve a target of 36 kw power generation by the end of Fifth Plan;

(c) if so, whether any final decision has been taken by the Planning Commission; and

(d) what are the other steps being considered by the Ministry to overcome the power shortage?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) The power supply position in the country is generally satisfactory except in U.P. where it continues to be critical. In the DVC area, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka some shortages prevail. Shortage is due to (i) inadequate rainfall in the Rihand and Sharavathi catchment areas; (ii) forced outage of some thermal units and (iii) delay in the commissioning of power projects.

(b) The Ministry of Irrigation and Power have prepared a tentative power development programme for increasing the net installed generating capacity to about 36 million kw by the end of Vth Plan period as an immediate objective for implementation.

(c) The final decision has not yet been taken by the Planning Commission.

(d) The following steps are being taken to overcome the shortage:

(i) Exchange of power between neighbouring States is encouraged so as to achieve optimum utilisation of generating capacity and minimise the requirements of reserves.

(ii) Industries are being allowed to set up their own captive plants for stand by service

(iii) Efforts are being made to expedite the commissioning of the generating units which are in an advanced stage of construction.

(iv) The programme of inter-State lines and setting up load-despatch stations is being expedited.

(v) The utilisation of existing power installations is being maximised by monitoring and arranging for supply and transport of coal and fuel oil, spare parts, etc.

Investigation by the M.R.T.P. Commission into cases of Restricted Trade Practices by some Leading Firms

376. SHRI R. R. SINGH DEO:
SHRI BHAGIRATH BHANWAR:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission has recently started investigations into a number of cases where some leading firms have allegedly resorted to restricted trade practices;

(b) if so, the names of firms against whom such investigations have been instituted; and

(c) the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA): (a) and (b). The Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission is enquiring into the complaints/references in regard to the restrictive trade practices alleged to have been followed by the following undertakings:—

1. Bombay Goods Transport Association, Bombay.
2. Western India Match Company.
3. India Tobacco Company Limited.
4. Vazir Sultan Tobacco Company Limited.
5. Dunlop India Limited.
6. Inchek Tyres Limited.
7. Goodyear (India) Limited
8. Firestone Tyre and Rubber Company (India) Private Limited.
9. India Tyre and Rubber Co. (India) Limited.
10. Ceat Tyre of India Limited.
11. The Madras Rubber Factory Limited.
12. Premier Tyre Limited.
13. Indian Tube Company Limited.
14. Indian Oxygen Limited.
15. Gramophone Company of India Limited.
16. Hindustan Pilkington Glass Works Limited.
17. Surat Cotton Spinning and Weaving Mills (P.) Limited
18. Window Glass Limited
19. Associated Patterned and Wired Glass Limited.
20. National Tobacco Company of India Limited.
21. Groz Backert Saboo Limited.
22. Allied Distributors Limited.
23. Bengal Potteries Limited.
24. American Universal Electric (India) Limited.
25. Baroda Rayon Corporation Limited.
26. Century Spinning and Manufacturing Company Limited.
27. Indian Rayon Corporation Limited.
28. J. & K. Cotton Mills Limited.
29. Keshoram Cotton Mills Limited.
30 National Rayon Corporation Limited.
31. South Indian Viscose Limited.
32. Travancore Rayons Limited.
33 Polydor of India Limited.
34. The Union Carbide India Limited.
35. Ashok Leyland Limited.

(c) According to the provisions of Section 37 of the M.R.T.P Act, it is the Commission, and not the Central Government which has to make appropriate orders after making enquiries, it is of opinion, that any restrictive trade practice is prejudicial to the public interest.

Fall in production of goods due to non-availability of Wagons and Operational Inefficiency in Transporting Coal

377. SHRI N. K. SANGHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether owing to the non-availability of wagons and operational inefficiency in transporting coal, production of industrial goods has registered a marked fall in almost all the States that are away from the coal-mining areas;

(b) whether the Railway administration has probed the matter to find out the causes for this and if so, the findings of the enquiry; and

(c) the steps Government have initiated to improve coal carrying capacities and by what time the situation will improve?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) The information regarding fall in industrial production due to non-availability of coal is not available with the Ministry of Railways. There is, however, no shortage of wagons though wagon availability for transportation is affected due to a number of adverse factors very often beyond the control of the Railways such as power cuts, affecting both train movement and coal production, strikes, work-to-rule and designation by Railway staff, squatting on track, outside interference with train working, heavy rains, immobilisation of wagons due to undue delay in loading and unloading by Railways customers, etc.

It is true that demands of all industries are not met in full but pro-rata distribution of available coal is made to them to ensure that immediate requirements of coal are reached to keep the industries going. Supply of coal to high priority industries like Steel Plants, Thermal Power Stations and other importaht industries was maintained by very special efforts at a satisfactory level without affecting their production.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Loss Incurred due to Strike by Electricity Workers in Uttar Pradesh

378. SHRI N K. SANGHI: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether agitation of the electricity workers in U P, is continuing resulting in continuous power tripping during the last three months;

(b) whether Government have made any estimate of the losses suffered on account of sabotage by workers and work stoppages; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to curb the sabotage activities of the agitators and the progress so far made to arrive at a settlement between the Electricity Board and the workers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) Agitation has been withdrawn with effect from 18-10-1973. However, during the period of strike by workers from 20-9-1973 to 18-10-1973, there were certain cases of power failures.

(b) The losses to the State Electricity Board due to sabotage cases have not been assessed. However there was no loss due to work stoppage by workers.

(c) The U.P. State Electricity Board have stated that they have reached an agreement in regard to a moratorium on strikes for a period of three years, with one of the Unions of workers and they are still negotiating with other Unions.

Increase in Prices of Kerosene and Petrol Products due to Increase in Price of Imported Crude

379. SHRI N. K. SANGHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether owing to increase in the price of imported crude, the prices of petroleum products are sought to be raised;

(b) whether Government have taken a decision to cut the production of petrol, kerosene and diesel oil by 25 per cent to achieve a corresponding increase in the production of naphtha and if so, whether the fall in production of kerosene and rise in crude price will affect a two-fold increase in the price of kerosene; and

(c) if not, the steps proposed to be taken to ensure that the prices of kerosene and petrol are not allowed to be raised beyond reasonable limits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) Owing to increase in the price of imported crude, the prices of all bulk refined petroleum products except naphtha were increased on 3rd November, 1973.

(b) The prices of motor spirit and kerosene have been increased to reflect the higher cost of crude as well as increase in the rates of Basic Excise Duties. These steps have been taken *inter alia* to curb the consumption of these products, to eliminate incentive for the misuse of kerosene and to increase indigenous availability of naphtha for fertiliser and petrochemical plants. The product pattern of the refineries may have to be reviewed in the light of the impact of price increases on demand for various petroleum products.

(c) Does not arise.

Exploration of Oil Resources in Bombay High and in Tripura

380. SHRI N. K. SANGHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a recent survey has revealed possibilities of rich availability of oil resources in Bombay High and in Tripura;

(b) if so, the findings of the survey; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to conserve the use of petroleum products and also to exploit the available resources to meet the increasing demand in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b). The surveys have revealed only the existence of a number of large structures in these areas. While this is a favourable condition, the position in regard to the presence or otherwise of oil in those structures will be known only after the structures have been tested by drilling deep exploration wells.

(c) Information with regard to the steps taken to conserve the use of petroleum products has been furnished to Lok Sabha in reply to Unstarred Question No. 342 answered on the 13th November, 1973.

The ONGC has drawn up an ambitious programme of operations in the Fifth Five Year Plan period, which envisages a considerable intensification of its oil exploration, development and production activities, aimed at finding large new oil reserves and increasing the oil production rate to about 8.42

million tonnes per year by the end of the Fifth Plan period. In so far as off shore exploration is concerned, the Commission has acquired a self-elevating, jack-up type of mobile drilling platform and the first offshore well in the Bombay High region was spudded in on the 11th of October, 1973. The Government is also considering collaboration with foreign parties on the basis of a "General Contractor" type of arrangement in a few offshore areas. A number of proposals have been received form certain foreign companies and these are at present under consideration of the Government.

The Oil India Limited in which Government has 50 per cent shares has also decided to intensify, in the limited areas in which it operates, its exploration activities and has drawn up a seven year programme of operations (1973-79) to meet the growing demand for crude oil in the country. As a part of this, it would be drilling 16 wells in the Dum Dum an area of Assam and Ningru area of Arunachal Pradesh, with a total depth of 58712 metres. Oil India Limited has been asked to reduce the time-frame of the proposed exploration activities.

Tremors in Siv-Sagar Dam of Koyana Project in Maharashtra

381. SHRI N. K. SANGHI: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Koyana region in Maharashtra felt 42 tremors in 24 hours during October, 1973;

(b) whether the tremors were due to high water level in the Sivsagar Dam of Koyana project;

(c) whether similar tremors occured earlier in the same region and the causes of the same were investigated by experts and if so, their precise findings and the steps suggested to prevent such tremors; and

(d) whether as a result of frequent tremors, the Koyana project is likely to be affected adversely and if so, the steps taken to save the project from such exigencies of impending danger?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The expert opinion is that there is no conclusive evidence to show that the tremors were caused by high water level in the Sivsagar Dam of the Koyana Project.

(c) After the severe earthquake of December 1967 at Koyana, a committee consisting of UNESCO and Indian experts was set up to examine the possible causes loading to the earthquake. The finding of the Committee was that the water level in the reservoir was not responsible for the two major shocks of September and December, 1967. While it is not possible to prevent tremors, the Koyana Dam and the appurtenent works have been strengthened as recommended by the Experts Committee to withstand the tremors.

(d) There are no reasons to believe that the Koyana project will be adversely affected. Since, the October, 1973 tremors were however, felt after filling up of the reservoir, the Ministry of Irrigation and Power have recently suggested to the Government of Maharashtra that another expert Committee may be constituted to examine the cause of the shocks and give its considered opinion regarding remedial measures to be taken.

Under-Capitalised Concerns in Sugar Industry

382. SHRI M. R. LAKSHMINARAYANAN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2342 on the 7th August, 1973 regarding Under

capitalised concerns in Sugar Industry and state:

(a) whether the balance sheets of the remaining companies engaged in the manufacture of sugar have since been scrutinised; and

(b) if so, the names of the companies which are under-capitalised?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) None of the Companies amongst them is under-capitalised.

Alleged fraud on Railways by the Catering Staff of Northern Railway

383. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA:

SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAKODKAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the catering staff of the Northern Railway has been allegedly defrauding the Railways of Rs. 36 lakh annually;

(b) whether any special enquiry has been ordered into the matter;

(c) if so, the outcome of the enquiry; and

(d) whether any action has been taken against the persons found guilty?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD SHAFI QURESHI): (a). Complaints have been received alleging loss of Rs. 36 lakhs annually to the Railways due to malpractices in the departmental catering units of the Northern Railway.

(b) to (d). These allegations are being looked into by the Railway Vigilance. Further action will be taken in the matter on completion of the enquiries.

Delay in Commissioning and Execution of Badarpur Power Project

384. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA:

SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAKODKAR:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been some delay in the commissioning and execution of Badarpur Power Project;

(b) whether there has been any loss to the public exchequer due to this delay and if so, the total amount of loss; and

(c) the reasons for the delay and steps taken to ensure the timely completion of the whole project?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) The project report envisaged commissioning of the first unit in 1971-72 There has been delay in the commissioning of the unit.

(b) Delay in completion of the project is one of the cause of the increase in cost of the Project, the main reasons being higher cost of plant and equipment and civil works.

(c) The main causes for the delay are, delay in sanctioning of the project, difficult site conditions, delay in construction of main power house building due to non-availability of the required structural steel sections, delay in major civil works due to contractors not adhering to the targetted dates of completion, delays in supplies of plant and equipment, delay in the construction of railway siding, inter-

ruptions in supply of steel, cement and other materials on account of Indo-Pak conflict and general shortage of scarce materials like cement, steel, oxygen/ accetyline gas etc.

Frequent review meetings were held with the contractors/suppliers at the highest level and every effort was constantly being made at all stages to remove bottlenecks which were hampering the progress of the works. Assistance was given to the contractors for the procurement of steel from the priority quota as well by diversion from other projects to tide over temporary difficulties. Similar assistance was also rendered for obtaining cement, oxygen/accetyline gas from other projects, whenever necessary. The supply of plant and equipment has been expedited. The Agency for the erection work for unit II and III has been fixed and work of erection is in progress.

Classification of Monopolies into good and bad Monopolies

385. SHRI B. V. NAIK: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to reply given to a Supplementary Question to Starred Question No. 755 on the 17th April, 1973 regarding companies in which Monopoly Houses have controlling interest and state:

(a) whether the classification of monopolies in this country into good and bad ones has been made;

(b) if so, the names of the monopolies according to the above-categories; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It has not been found possible to evolve any one precise criterion to classify the Monopoly Houses into good and bad ones. A Monopoly House consists of a number of companies of which some may be good from one angle while some may be bad from another angle. A Monopoly House as a whole is, therefore not amenable to such a classification.

Concessions Granted by State and Central Governments to Large Scale Manufacturers of Caustic Soda

386. SHRI B. V NAIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the concessions granted by the State or Central Governments to large-scale manufacturers of caustic soda in the form of land, water, electricity and in other forms;

(b) whether grant of land for production of raw material, viz., common salt, after confiscating agricultural land from cutivators by acquisition is a concession shown to caustic soda manufacturers; and

(c) if so, the names of such concession holders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Proposal to Pass on Electricity cess to States as Development Aid

387. SHRI B. V. NAIK: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the surplus and deficit States as far as the production of electricity is concerned;

(b) whether any proposals have been received regarding electricity cess to be passed back as development aid in areas where hydel generation is localised; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Centre thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) At present the surplus States, as far as production of electricity is concerned, are Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Kerala and the Union Territory of Delhi. Power cuts or restrictions on consumption of electricity have been imposed in the States of Haryana, U.P., Jammu and Kashmir, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, West Bengal and the Union Territories of Chandigarh and Goa Daman and Diu.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Cash Collection Facility of D.E.S.U. in Colonies of Delhi

388. SHRI ISHWAR CHAUDHRY: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no cash collection facility of D.E.S.U available in Madan Park surrounded by Manohar Park, Ashok Park Extension, Chanmal Park, Jaidev Park and Punjab Garden colonies in Delhi-110035 thereby causing great inconvenience to about 50,000 residents of this area; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which Government propose to provide the facility?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) and (b). It has been reported by Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking that cash collection facilities through mobile cash vans are available in East Punjabi-Bagh, West Punjabi Bagh and Shivaji Park where payments for electricity bills from other adjoining colonies such as Madan Park, Mohan Park, Ashok Park Extension, Jai Dev Park and Punjab Garden Colony, are also accepted. The question of providing additional holts of the mobile cash vans in these extensions is under examination by D.E.S.U

Location of another Fertilizer Plant in Karnataka

389. SHRI K. MALLANNA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government had been pressing Central Government to locate another fertilizer unit in the State apart from doubling the capacity of Mangalore fertilizer; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b). A proposal has been received from the Mysore State Industrial Investment and Development Corporation for the setting up of a phosphatic fertilizer plant at Mangalore. This proposal, which has been supported by the State Government, is being appraised.

Construction of Bangalore-Mysore-Coimbatore Broad Gauge Railway Line

390. SHRI K. MALLANNA:
SHRI G .Y. KRISHNAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railway Board has rejected the proposal for the construction of Bangalore-Mysore-Coimbatore broad gauge railway line;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the State of Mysore has requested the Central Government to include this project in the Fifth Five Year Plan and if so, the reaction of Central Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) and (b). For the conversion of Bangalore-Mysore-Chamarajanagar section from metre gauge to broad gauge, Engineering-cum-Traffic Surveys have recently been carried out, or are in progress. Survey reports for Bangalore-Mysore section have been received while those for Mysore-Chamarajanagar section are awaited. A decision regarding conversion of these two sections will be taken after the survey reports are examined from all angles. As regards Chamarajanagar-Coimbatore section, there is no proposal for laying a new Railway line either broad gauge or metre gauge as Engineering and Traffic Surveys carried out in 1948-49 and a reassessment thereof made in 1970, both reveal that even an M.G. rail link in the section would not be financially viable. In the present financial stringency, the construction of this rail link does not appear to be feasible.

(c) No. However, the State Government of Karnataka has been pressing for conversion of Bangalore-Mysore-Chamarajanagar section from metre gauge to broad guage which as stated above, is already under consideration.

Defects in indigenously designed Fertilizer Plants

391. SHRI D. D. DESAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen a report in the 'Hindustan Times' of 19th September, 1973 to the effect that the indigenously designed fertilizer plants have become permanently sick due to faulty designs; and

(b) if so, what steps Government intend to take to correct the design faults?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b). Two out of the three plants referred to in the Report, *viz.*, Durgapur and Cochin, represent our first major effort towards maximisation of indigenous design and engineering with minimum assistance from outside. Both these plants were mechanically completed in the later half of 1971, but could not be successfully commissioned immediately thereafter mainly on account of mechanical failure of some of the major imported items of equipment. The Cochin plant commenced production in April 1973, but has yet to stabilise its operations so far. The Durgapur plant is in final stages of commissioning and has been able to produce some small quantities of ammonia and urea. The defects and such other deficiencies as were noticed during the trial runs have been mostly identified with the assistance, among others, of experts from foreign suppliers. The necessary corrective action in regard to them is also under way.

The Barauni plant is nearing completion and steps have been taken to ensure that defects of the type noticed at Cochin and Durgapur do not recur here.

बुन्देलखण्ड में राजघाट बांध परियोजना के लिये केन्द्रीय बोर्ड का गठन

392. **डा० गोविन्द दास रिछारिया :** क्या सिंचाई और विद्युत मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या बुन्देलखण्ड में प्रस्तावित राजघाट बांध परियोजना के लिए केन्द्रीय बोर्ड का गठन कर लिया गया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो अध्यक्ष तथा सदस्यों के नाम क्या हैं ;

(ग) बांध के लिये कितनी राशि की स्वीकृति दी गई है ; और

(घ) परियोजना की वर्तमान प्रगति क्या है ?

सिंचाई और विद्युत् मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री सिद्धेश्वर प्रसाद): (क) और (ख) . राजघाट परियोजना के लिए नियंत्रण बोर्ड का अभी तक गठन नहीं किया गया है । इस मामले पर मध्य प्रदेश और उत्तर प्रदेश की सरकारों के साथ पत्र-व्यवहार किया जा रहा है ।

(ग) राजघाट बांध परियोजना के निर्माण के लिये उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने 1973–74 के अपने बजट में 5 लाख रु० का प्रावधान किया है । राज्य की पांचवी योजना में इस परियोजना के लिए उनके द्वारा 25 करोड़ रु० के परिव्यय का प्रस्ताव किया गया है ।

मध्य प्रदेश सरकार ने पांचवी योजना में सभी अस्वीकृत स्कीमों (राजघाट परियोजना सहित) के लिए 125 करोड़ रु० की धनराशि का एकत्र रूप में प्रावधान किया है । पांचवी योजना को अभी तक अंतिम रूप नहीं दिया गया है ।

(घ) प्रारम्भिक कार्य इस वर्ष से शुरू कर दिये गये हैं ।

Representation from Merchants' Association, Gokak for diversion of line via Gokak Town on conversion of Metre Gauge to Broad Gauge between Miraj and Londha (S.C. Railway)

393. SHRI JAGANNATH RAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey team has completed its study to convert the metre gauge into broad gauge between Miraj and Londha (S.C. Railway);

(b) if so, whether it received a representation from Merchants' Association, Gokak to divert the present line *via* Gokak town while converting it into broad gauge; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) The survey is in progress.

(b) Yes.

(c) The earlier survey report of 1963-64 suggested conversion along the existing route *via* Gokak Road Station as it was brought out that diversion of track *via* Gokak town would be difficult and would also involve extra lead for through traffic. However, the representation received from the Merchants' Association, Gokak has been forwarded to the South-Central Railway for necessary examination during the current survey.

Demand by the people of Akodia-Mandi for raising the platform level and for constructing a waiting hall

394. SHRI JAGANNATH RAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand by the people of Akodia-Mandi (Western Railway) for raising the platform level and for constructing a waiting hall;

(b) if so, when the same will be completed; and

(c) if the aforesaid work are not to be taken up, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). Akodia is a wayside station situated on Bhopal-Ujjain Section of Western Railway. To meet the requirements of passenger traffic offering at this station a rail level platform and waiting accommodation by way of third class waiting hall measuring 1599 sq. ft. and cover over the platform measuring 50' × 61' already exist. Works regarding raising of the platform and extension of waiting hall will be considered for inclusion in future years' Works Programmes subject to approval of Railway Users' Amenities Committee and availability of funds.

Delay in completion of Guna-Maksi line

395. SHRI JAGANNATH RAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Guna-Maksi line was to be completed by December, 1972; and

(b) if so, the reasons why the same has not been completed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) and (b). Due to slower rate of traffic growth and paucity of funds, the target date for the completion of the Guna-Maksi line had to be revised a number of times. Nevertheless, the sections between Guna and Biyavra Rajgarh and Maksi to Sarangpur, comprising a total length of 132.21 kms., have been completed. Due to paucity of funds, the work on the section between Biyavra Rajgarh and Sarangpur (61.27 kms.) has been slowed down. Efforts will, however, be made to complete the balance section by December, 1974.

देश में पैट्रोलियम उत्पादों की मांग तथा पूर्ति

396. **श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी** : क्या पैट्रोलियम और रसायन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) इस समय देश में पैट्रोल, डीजल तथा मिट्टी के तेल की मांग और पूर्ति की स्थिति क्या है; और

(ख) उपभोक्ताओं को सुदूर तथा छोटे स्थानों पर भी उचित दरों पर समय पर ये चीजें उपलब्ध कराने के लिए क्या प्रबन्ध किये गये हैं ?

पैट्रोलियम और रसायन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री शाहनवाज खां) : (क) मोटर स्पिरिट (पैट्रोल), मिट्टी के तेल, एच० एस० डी० (हाई स्पीड डीजल आयल) तथा एल डी ओ (लाइट डीजल आयल) की सप्लाई तथा मांग की स्थिति इस समय संतोषजनक है। देश की पूरा आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करने के लिए पर्याप्त वस्तुगत सूचियां हैं। देशीय उपलब्धि तथा पूर्वानुमानित मांग के अन्तर को पूर्ण रूप से पूरा करने के लिए आयात सम्बन्धी बचनबद्धताएं भी की गई हैं।

(ख) समूचे देश में स्थित, जिन में दूर दूर के छोटे स्थान भी शामिल हैं, तेल कम्पनियों फुटकर बिक्री केन्द्रों (पम्पों) के माध्यम से मोटर स्पिरिट तथा एच० एस० डी० ओ० की सप्लाई संतोषजनक ढंग से की जा रही है। मिट्टी के तेल तथा एच०एस० डी०ओ० के मूल्य बराबर करने से, मिट्टी के तेल की बिक्री के लिए भी इसी प्रकार के प्रबन्ध किये जा रहे हैं एल० डी० ओ० की उपलब्धता की ओर भी विशेष ध्यान दिया जा रहा है।

Reported sale by Hindustan Times of its building in New Delhi, to M/s Oriental Company, Faridabad

397. SHRI SARJOO PANDEY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the *Hindustan Times* Employees Union has brought to the notice of Government that Hindustan Times Limited, New Delhi is planning to sell six floors of its new building on Curzon Road (Kasturba Gandhi Marg), New Delhi to another sister concern M/s. Oriental Company, Faridabad; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Companies Act, 1956 does not contain any provision which would enable the Government to prevent the sale.

Railway Employees' participation in Management of Railways

398. SHRI SARJOO PANDEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided about the participation of the Railway employees in the management of the Railways; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines of the decision taken?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) and (b). Towards greater participation of labour in management, a machinery known as the Corporate Enterprise Group has been set up in which representatives of the two Federations and Members of the Board discuss certain matters. On the Railways there is participation of workers on various committees set up for staff welfare.

From time to time representatives of staff are also consulted on certain issues relating to their work and welfare.

Increase in Prices of Petroleum Products

399. SHRIMATI SAVITRI SHYAM:
SHRI ARJUN SETHI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of kerosene, petroleum and lubrication oils have been increased during the last six months;

(b) if so, the extent of increase in their prices and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government to bring down their prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-3680/73].

(c) In view of the steep and continuing rise in the prices of imported crude oil and petroleum products it would be difficult to consider any reductions in the selling prices of petroleum products.

Railway accidents during the last six Months

400. SHRIMATI SAVITRI SHYAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Railway accidents occurred in different parts of the country during the last six months;

(b) if so, the nature and cause of the accidents;

(c) how many human lives have been lost in the accidents;

(d) the compensation paid by Railways: and

(e) the action taken against the persons held responsible for the accidents?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) and (b). During the last six months i.e. from May 1973 to October, 1973 there were 409 trains accidents in the categories of collisions, derailments, trains running into road traffic at level crossings and fires in trains on the Indian Government Railways. The causes of these accidents are as under:—

(i) No. of accidents due to failure of Railway staff	197
(ii) No. of accidents due to failure of persons other than Railway staff	59
(iii) No. of accidents due to failure of railway equipment	75
(iv) No. of accidents due to Sabotage	3
(v) Accidental	35
(vi) No. of accidents in which causes could not be established	7
(vii) Causes not yet finalised	33
TOTAL	409

(c) In these accidents 103 persons were killed.

(d) An amount of Rs. 7,151.70 paise has so far been paid under the Workmen's Compensation Act.

(e) Thirty-nine railway staff involved in these accidents have so far been punished as follows :—

(i) Reduction either in lower grade or in the same grade	7
(ii) Withholding of increments for varying periods	25
(iii) Censure/Warning	5
(iv) Withholding of passes and P.T.Os	2
TOTAL	39

Strike by Power Engineers of Electricity Board

401. SHRIMATI SAVITRI SHYAM: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Power Engineers and the Employees of the various Electricity Boards of the country had gone on strike during the last six months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the demands made by them; and

(c) whether Government have evolved any policy to ensure that there should be no strike during the next three years?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir. Power Engineers and the Employees of some of the State Electricity Boards of the country had gone on strike during the last six months.

(b) The main reason for the strike by the Power Engineers had been the demand made by them for the withdrawal of suspension of Shri Harbans Singh, ex-Chairman, Punjab State Electricity Board and the President of the All India Federation of Power Engineers. Other demands were formation of an All India Service of Engineers, revision of pay scales at par with IAS officers and restructuring of the Electricity Supply Industry including the State Electricty Boards. In addition, employees in U.P., had gone on strike to press their demand for immediate revision of pay scales, correction of fitments and categorisation earlier made etc.

(c) The generation, transmission and distribution of electricity is largely the responsibility of the State Electricity Boards, and most of the power engineers and electricity workers are the employees of the Boards. The demands and grievances of the power engineers and electricity workers have, therefore, to be considered by the State Electricity Boards/State Governments. The State Electricity Boards/State Governments are seized of the matter.

Power shortage in Andhra Pradesh

402. SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state the steps taken by the Central Government to meet the shortage of power in the country and lagging in power development in Andhra Pradesh in particular?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): For the States faced with power shortage, relief is being arranged from the neighbouring States to mitigate the shortage to some extent. Industries have been allowed installation of captive power plant to meet their requirement as also standby/emergency sets. Efforts are also being made to expedite commissioning of new generating units and bringing them into commercial operation. For Andhra Pradesh relief is being given from Orissa to tide over the shortages at present. Two power generation schemes are presently under construction in Andhra Pradesh namely Lower Sileru (4 x 100 MW) and Kothagudam (2 x 110 MW).

In addition, the following power generation schemes have recently been approved for Andhra Pradesh for implementation during the Fifth Five Year Plan.

1.	Nagarajuna Sagar (Hydro) .	100 MW
2.	Vijayawada Thermal power Station	400 MW
3.	Kothagudum Thermal Power Station Stage IV .	220 MW
4.	Upper Sileru Extension (Hydro)	120 MW
5.	Kothagudum Thermal Powwer Station Stage V . .	220 MW

12.00 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Reported Unearthing of International Racket in Delhi

SHRI SAT PAL KAPUR (Patiala): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:—

> "The reported unearthing of an international hashish smuggling racket in Delhi and seizure of contraband hashish worth Rs. 1.5 lakhs, and foreign currency to the value of Rs. 4 lakhs."

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN): Sir, the Delhi Police had received information of a racket in foreign currency and narcotics. On the basis of this information, in the early hours of 10th November, 1973, they arrested one Ashok Soloman, an Indian national,

[Shri F. H. Mohsin]

at the Delhi Airport after he alighted from a domestic flight from Bombay. Various foreign currencies worth about Rs. 2.5 lakhs are reported to have been recovered from his person. From the search of his house in New Delhi more foreign currency worth about Rs. 1 lakh, Indian currency worth Rs. 4970.00, some cartridges and sharp edged weapons are reported to have been recovered. From his business premises in Old Delhi 5.5 kgs. of hashish was reported to have been recovered. Shri Ashok Soloman and his wife were arrested on the same day.

Another resident premises in New Delhi which were in the occupation of an associate of Shri Ashok Soloman were searched on the same day and 140.3 kgs. of hashish Rs. 7,000/- in Indian currency and certain foreign documents are reported to have been recovered. The associate and his wife were also arrested on the same day.

On the 12th November, 1973, a bank locker in New Delhi in the name of the mother of Shri Ashok Soloman was searched by the Delhi Police and the Customs Staff and about 2 kgs. of gold including 16 guineas and a primary gold bar weighing 10 tolas are reported to have been recovered.

Business premises of another associate of Ashok Soloman were raided last night and 4.7 kgs. of hashish was reported to have been recovered. This Associate was also arrested.

The Delhi Police have registered four criminal cases in this regard and their investigation is in progress. The interrogation of the accused is continuing.

श्री सतपाल कपूर : स्पीकर साहब, इस केस में जो सारा स्टेटमेंट मंत्री महोदय ने दिया है यह मैंने केस अपनी तरफ से रेफ़र किया था मिनिस्ट्री आफ़ फाइनेन्स को, और जो फ़र्स्ट नोटिस मिला था वह मिनिस्ट्री आफ़ फ़ाइनेन्स को मिला था क्योंकि प्राबलम कस्टम्स की है। हमारे मुल्क में कोई ऐसी चीज़ नहीं है जिसकी स्मगलिंग न हो। शराब, परफ्यूम, कपड़ा या घड़ियां लीजिये, हशीश लीजिये, सब की स्मगलिंग होती है। सवाल यह पैदा होता है कि यह इन्टरनेशनल स्मगलिंग का गैंग कौन चलाता है, और क्या इसमें कोई मुल्क की ऐम्बेसी ऐसी है जो स्मगलिंग को एनकरेज करती है ? पिछले सेशन में एक काल अटेंशन मैंने दी थी जिसमें नहीं बताया गया कि कौन सी ऐम्बेसी है जिसके ऐमप्लाईज़ और अधिकारी लोगों ने स्मगलिंग का कोई सामान बेचा और स्मगलिंग को आर्गेनाइज़ किया। मैं आज भी उसका नाम नहीं पूछना चाहता। लेकिन सब से बड़ा सवाल यह है कि इस मुल्क में स्मगलिंग हर चीज़ की बहुत बड़े पैमाने पर आर्गेनाइज्ड ढंग से हो रही है, हर चीज़ स्मगलिंग की बिक रही है। इस केस में आपने छापा मारा जिसमें फ़ौरेन करेंसी मिली, हशीश मिली। लेकिन इस सारे मुल्क में स्मगलिंग को रोकने के लिये आप क्या कुछ कर रहे हैं। क्या कोई इंटरनेशनल गैंग इसके पीछे है और कौन सा कन्ट्री उस गैंग को चलाता है ? क्या कोई मल्टी-नेशनल पार्टीज़ या कम्पनीज़ इसमें इनवाल्व्ड हैं, यह हमको बताया जाय।

एक बात बहुत साफ़ है कि इस मुल्क के कस्टम्स स्टाफ़ वाले और पुलिस वाले स्मगलरों से मिले हुए हैं। अक्सर हम अखबारों में पढ़ते हैं, जैसा कि इस केस के बारे में पढ़ा कि वहां इतना

सोना पकड़ा गया, कपड़ा पकड़ा गया, और दूसरे दिन यह महसूस नहीं होता कि किसी को सजा भी हुई । आपके कानून में जितना डिफ़ेक्ट है उसको रिमूव कीजिये । जो लोग चालान बनाते हैं और अदालत में पेश करते हैं तो जो असरदार लोग हैं वह आप के ऐमप्लाईज़ को करप्ट करके कहीं न कहीं कोई लैकुना छोड़ देते हैं जिसकी वजह से अदालत को उनको छोड़ने पर मजबूर होना पड़ता है । इस सारे काम को जितनी सीरियसली डील करना चाहिए था उतना सीरियसली डील नहीं किया जा रहा है, यह मेरी राय है । और मैं समझता हूं कि जिस तरह से यह लूज सिस्टम चल रहा है इसको अगर इसी तरह अलाऊ करेंगे तो मुल्क की इकोनामी पर इसका बहुत बुरा असर पड़ेगा । इसलिये इसको सीरियसली टेक अप करना चाहिए ।

हमें यह बताया गया कि कस्टम्स स्टाफ़ और पुलिस डिपार्टमेंट में जो लोग काम करते हैं उनमें कितने आदमी ऐसे हैं जिनको आपने पिछले तीन साल में सजा दी है कि वह स्मगलर्स के साथ मिले हुए हैं ? कितने लोगों को चार्जशीट किया है और इसको रोकने के लिए कस्टम्स स्टाफ़ और पुलिस डिपार्टमेंट में आप क्या क्या रिफ़ार्म्स कर रहे हैं ? और इस कानून को और सख्त बनाने के लिए क्या क्या तजवीजें हैं ?

दूसरी बात यह जानना चाहता हूं कि स्मगलिंग आर्गेनाइज़ करने में किन किन ताकतों का हाथ है, और स्मगलिंग को रोकने के लिए सरकार क्या कर रही है ? इस की एक कामप्रीहेंसिव रिपोर्ट हमें मिलनी चाहिये ।

.ह मंत्री (श्री उमा शंकर दीक्षित) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने इस प्रश्न को बहुत व्यापक बना दिया है, यह जो सवाल काल अटेंशन मेहमारे सामने आया है वह सीमित है । यहां पुलिस के पास किसी और मामले के सम्बन्ध में जांच का इन्तजाम था और वह जांच कर रही थी । उस के सिलसिले में जैसे ही उनको मालूम पड़ा कि कोई आदमी आने वाला है जिसका सम्बन्ध है तो जल्दी से जाकर उसको पकड़ा । उसके घर की तलाशी ली और जहां कारखाना चलाते हैं, काम करते हैं, उन जगहों की तलाशी ली और उनमें जो विदेशी मुद्रा मिली और हशीश मिला, गांजा, चरस वगैरह, वह सब जब्त किया है । इससे यह जरूर है कि जो स्मगलिंग का गैंग है, जो भी गुंडों का गुट होगा उसको पकड़ने में इस मामले से बहुत मदद मिलेगी । लेकिन सब तरह के स्मगलिंग के मामले के बारे में हम बता सकें यह हमारे लिये सम्भव नहीं है । बहुत तरह की स्मगलिंग होती है, एक स्टेट के अन्दर, एक स्टेट से दूसरी स्टेट में और एक मुल्क से दूसरे मुल्क में होती है । नेपाल से, पाकिस्तान से चरस और गांजा आता है और पश्चिम के देशों को भेजा जाता है । यह बहुत बड़ा प्रश्न है । इसका प्रबन्ध तो फ़ाइनेन्स मिनिस्ट्री का ऐनफ़ोर्समेंट डायरेक्टोरेट करता है । और पुलिस के सामने जो मामला आता है, जहां तक यूनियन टैरिटरीज़ का ताल्लुक है उसको हम देखते हैं, नहीं तो स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स देखती हैं ।

स्मगलिंग के बारे में जो कानून है उसमें जो सजा का प्रावधान है अगर वह कमजोर है तो उसको ज्यादा मजबूत करने पर हम जरूर विचार करेंगे और फ़ाइनेन्स मिनिस्ट्री के

]श्री उमा शंकर दीक्षित]

सामने भी यह प्रस्ताव रखेंगे कि इस विषय पर विचार किया जाना चाहिए ।

श्री सतपाल कपूर : मेरा इस केस के बारे में ही सवाल नहीं है बल्कि और जो दूसरी बेसिक प्राबलम्स हैं उनके बारे में सवाल है ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : सवाल तो एक ही हो सकता है ।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय (मुरैना) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, इस ध्यान आकर्षण प्रस्ताव का जो उत्तर दिया गया है वह अंग्रेजी में दिया गया है, मंत्रालय की ओर से उसका हिन्दी अनुवाद नहीं दिया गया है । इसलिये प्रश्न पूछने की ठीक स्थिति में नहीं हूं ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : हिन्दी में भी होगा ।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : नहीं दिया है । हमेशा कहा जाता है कि जो प्रश्न हिन्दी में किये जाते हैं उनका उत्तर हिन्दी में होने चाहियें ।

तस्करी का व्यापार बहुत तेज गति से और बड़े पैमाने पर सारे देश में चल रहा है, इस बात से मंत्री महोदय इंकार नहीं कर सकते । इतना ही नहीं, जिनको देश का कर्णधार कहा जाता है वह व्यक्ति भी इसमें लिप्त हैं, वह भी इससे छुटे हुए नहीं हैं ।

श्री उमा शंकर दीक्षित : कर्णधार के माने क्या हैं और वह कौन हैं ?

श्री हुक्म चन्द कछवाय : मिनिस्टर, मंत्री, आप जैसे लोग ।

श्री उमा शंकर दीक्षित : उन नाम बतलाए जायें । (व्यवधान)

श्री सतपाल कपूर : मेम्बरान भी तो ऐसे हो सकते हैं ।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : मैं खुलासा कर दूंगा अगर मेरी बात गलत हो तो आप उसको कार्रवाई से निकाल सकते हैं ।

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: He said On a point of order, Sir. It is incumbent upon the Chair to expunge anything which is undignified or unparliamentay. The hon. Member, while posing a question and that too, a serious question, imputes motives on the hon. Home Minister.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Gwalior): Not the Home Minister.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: He said *'Apke Jaise Vyakti'*.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (ग्वालियर) : उन का कहना यह है कि मन्त्री लोग भी इस में शामिल हैं । "आपके जैसे लोग" से मतलब दीक्षित जी नहीं है ।

श्री सतपाल कपूर : यह बड़ी गलत बात है ।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, इस सदन में मामला उठ चुका है महाराष्ट्र के मन्त्री श्री अन्तुले का । श्री गणेश ने जवाब दिया था कि हम उन के खिलाफ जांच के लिये महाराष्ट्र सरकार से परमिशन मांग रहे हैं । मुख्य मन्त्री ने विधान सभा में एलान किया है कि हम ने इजाजत दी है । जब मिनिस्टर फसे हुए हैं तो आप इस को कैसे रोक सकते हैं ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : वाजपेयी जी, जितनी भी कमी रह गई है आप उस को पूरा कर रहे हैं। यह बात गलत है। उन को ही बोलने दीजिए। और लोग बोलेंगे तो ज्यादा मुश्किल हो जायेगा। आप ने उन के व्यान को और भी आगे बढ़ा दिया।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : यह सदन की कार्रवाई में है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : क्या माननीय सदस्य अपने भाषण और भाषा को दुरुस्त नहीं रख सकते हैं ? यह स्वभाव बदला नहीं जायेगा ? आप तो काफी देर से यहां हैं। अब तो स्वभाव बदलना चाहिये। आप तो बाहर भी काफी घूम घाम आये हैं, लेकिन आप पर कुछ भी असर हुआ मालूम नहीं देता।

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: He had stated that certain Ministers....

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: There are certain Ministers.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH): On a point of order.

I wish to make a submisson. The hon. Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, has referred to a certain statements given by me in relation to a Minister of Maharashtra. I wish to clarify the statement that I made because from the way he was making, it looked as if that in my statement any charge was leveled against the Maharashtra Minister.... (*Interruptions*). I have to clarify it. This is a very serious matter.. (*Interruptions*). Clarification or submission, whatever it is. Sitting here, I have to contest the point the hon. Member has made.....

MR. SPEAKER: I am going to be very strict. I will not allow any other Member. I thought Mr. Vajpayee was making a point of order.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : मैं यह कहने जा रहा था कि तस्करी के व्यापार में...

अध्यक्ष महोदय : वाजपेयी जी, आप उन को कुछ समझाया करें।

श्री मधु लिमये (बांका) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, श्री गणेश अपने प्वाइट आफ आर्डर पर थे। कुछ स्पष्टीकरण कर रहे थे।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : उन्होंने प्वाइंट आफ आर्डर का जवाब दिया था। जैसा प्वाइंट आफ आर्डर श्री वाजपेयी ने रेज किया था वैसे ही श्री गणेश ने किया था।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : तस्करी का व्यापार देश में बहुत बड़े बड़े लोगों के हाथ में है, और सरकार में बैठे हुए काफी बड़े अफसर और मन्त्री भी उस से छूट नहीं सकते। क्या यह बात सही नहीं है कि एक प्रश्न के उत्तर में हमारे वित्त मन्त्री श्री गणेश ने सदन में इस बात का उल्लेख किया था कि महाराष्ट्र के एक मन्त्री पर जो आरोप हैं हम उन की जांच करवायेंगे ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह ध्यान आकर्षण तो दिल्ली के बारे में है। जब उस के बारे में कोई होगा तब फिर देखा जायेगा।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : उस का उल्लेख किया गया था और उस के पुष्टि में महाराष्ट्र के मुख्य मंत्री ने कहा था कि यदि केन्द्रीय सरकार जांच करती...

अध्यक्ष महोदय : जो बात हाऊस के सामने है उस पर बोलिये।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : अशोक सालोमन जो हैं वह पिछले अनेक दिनों से यह धन्धा कर रहे है। उनकी ब्रांचें भी विदेशों में हैं। विदेशों में उन के आफिस बने हुये हैं, ऐसी रिपोर्ट समाचार पत्रों में है। इस व्यक्ति ने बैंक को धोखा दे कर एक बार 60,000 रुपये निकाले और एक बार 20 हजार रूपये निकाले। उस के खिलाफ कौन सी कार्यवाही की गई है? इस व्यक्ति का सम्बन्ध कितने अफसरों से है, जिन से साठ गांठ कर के यह व्यक्ति पिछले अनेक वर्षों से यह धन्धा करता आया है? कभी आप ने उस के कारखानों की जांच की कि कौन सा कारखाना उस का है, जैसा कि मंत्री महोदय ने उनके कारखाने का उल्लेख किया है। किस प्रकार का कारखाना है, कितनी लागत का है, कितने में बना है, उस में पूंजी कितनी लगी है। क्या कभी आप ने इस की छान बीन की कि इस व्यक्ति के खिलाफ एक केस या अनेक केस हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि इस व्यक्ति को अब तक कितनी बार विदेशों में जाने की अनुमति दी गई। इस व्यक्ति पर एक केस नहीं चल रहा है। आये दिन यह तस्करी का काम करता है। दुबाई, अबूधाबी आदि स्थानों से रोज नौकायें आती हैं सोना ले कर। अगर सौ नौकायें आई तो कभी कभी आप दो तीन को पकड़ लेते हैं बाकी को नहीं पकड़ते हैं। इस देश में बहुत बड़ी मात्रा में चोरी छिपे सोना लाया जाता है और उस में काफी अधिकारियों तथा मुझे यह कहने में कोई हिचकिचाहट नहीं है कि कई मंत्रियों का हाथ भी है।

पिछली बार एक व्यक्ति कुली मस्तान को बम्बई में पकड़ा, जो पोर्ट पर कुली का काम करता था। आज वह बम्बई में काफी सिनेमाघरों का मालिक है और कांग्रस के नेताओं के साथ बैठ कर फोटो खिचवाता है तथा नेताओं से हाथ मिलाता है। मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि आखिर आप ने उस के खिलाफ क्या कार्यवाही की। क्या आप उसकी सम्पति की जांच करेंगे। यह बात यहां भी उठ चुकी है कि चूंकि वह काफी धन देता है चुनाव के लिये और आप का काफी स्वागत करता है इसलिये आप उसके खिलाफ कार्यवाही नहीं करते।

पाकिस्तान का अबू बक्र नाम का जो आदमी पकड़ा गया था वह पाकिस्तान का नागरिक है। वह जेल हास्पिटल में था। वहां से रुपया दे कर भाग गया। मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि इतनी असावधानी क्यों बरती जाती है। इस के लिये कौन दोषी है, कौन जिम्मेदार है कि आये दिन ऐसी घटनायें होती हैं। मैंने जो बातें कहीं हैं उन के सम्बन्ध में मंत्री महोदय साफ बतलायें कि वह क्या करने जा रहे हैं। यह व्यक्ति कितनी बार विदेशों में गया है। उस का नया आफिस फ्रैंकफर्ट में बनने जा रहा है। लन्दन में उस की ब्रांच है। अगर आप जांच करेंगे तो उस के अलग अलग आफिस पायेंगे।

श्री उमा शंकर दीक्षित : उस व्यक्ति के ऊपर इस समय तीन मुकदमे चल रहे हैं वह यहां से चला गया था। जब खबर आई मालूम पड़ा कि वह आ रहा है तो उसके घर पर और सब जगह जा कर उस की गाड़ी

वगैरह की निगरानी कर के बड़ी मुस्तैदी से उस को पकड़ा गया। वह बम्बई में पहले आया वहां से फारेन एअर सर्विस से आया था। बम्बई से वह इंडियन एअरलाइन्स के जहाज में आया, बाहर से ही समान लाया होगा यह अनुमान है। अभी तीन मुकदमे चलाये गये हैं। मालूम पड़ा कि वह विदेशों से संबंधित है तो तुरन्त इंटरपोल को अलर्ट कर दिया गया उनकों सूचना दे कर आगाह कर दिया गया है। इस सारे मामले में जहां तक पुलिस का संबंध है और दिल्ली की होम मिनिस्ट्री से संबंध है, उस में हम पूरी शक्ति लगा कर इस मामले की जांच करेंगे और एन्फोर्समेंट डाइरेक्टोरेट का सहयोग भी लेंगे जो सोना निकला है या दूसरी चीजे निकली हैं उन के संबंध में। लेकिन अभी तीन या चार दिन के अन्दर ही यह काम हुआ है। जो कुछ सूचना हमारे पास आई हमने तत्काल आपके सामने पेश कर दी। अब दूसरे मामलों के बारे में अगर हम से पूछा जाता है तो उनके बारे में सूचना देना हमारे लिये इस समय सम्भव नहीं है। अभी इस मामले की जांच चल रही है। इस वक्त हम बहुत अधिक जानकारी आपको दे दें तो इस मामले में और दूसरे मामलों में भी नुक्सान हो सकता है। हम आशा करते थे कि कछवाय जी एक शब्द कुछ प्रशंसा का कहेंगे कि इतने जल्दी यह मामला पकड़ा गया है। चार पांच आदमी गिरफ्तार हुये हैं। एक रमेश लाला न उनको भी पकड़ा है। उनके पीछे पुलिस के लोग तेजी से पड़े हुये हैं। अब कोई सारी दुनिया का हाल पूछना चाहेंगे तो यह कोई उचित बात नहीं है।....

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : किससे सवाल पूछें और कब पूछें ?

श्री उमा शंकर दीक्षित : दूसरा सवाल करें या चिट्ठी लिखे तो उत्तर दे देंगे।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : एक प्रश्न का उत्तर नहीं आया है। अधिकारी का, किसी का इससे सम्बन्ध है ?

श्री उमा शंकर दीक्षित : जहा तक हमें सूचना मिली है मैं अधिकारपूर्वक कह सकता हूं कि किसी अधिकारी का इस में सम्बंध नहीं था। मंत्री का भी मैं निश्चयपूर्वक कह सकता हूं कि नहीं था।

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai): It has been stated by the hon. Minister that this smuggling business in hashish had been unearthed only just two or three days before. But the facts as stated and as revealed in the press and to a certain extent also by the hon. Minister show that this conspiracy to smuggle hashish has been continuing for long. The facts show that about Rs. 4 lakhs worth of foreign currencies have been seized by Government, and also a fantastic amount of hashish to the extent of 155 kg. which is a very big amount. Thirdly, a big amount of gold has also been seized from a bank locker deposited in the name of Mr. Soloman's mother. This shows that this conspiracy and this ring of smuggling of hashish has been going on for long.

Certain facts are also to be noted here. This ring of smugglers has set up a ramification at different points all over the world, in the USA, in Canada, Israel and even in Pakistan. Secondly, the accused, Mr. Soloman and another, Mr. Sharma, are not new; certain cases of defrauding of banks were there against them. So they were known cheaters. The cases instituted against them three or four years before are still continuing. So, these are not unknown people who have come up suddenly and indulged in this kind of smuggling

[Shri Samar Guha]

business. Thirdly, it has to be noted that about Rs. 4 lakhs worth of foreign currencies have been seized from their possession. Another serious point has to be noted. It has appeared in the press that one Mr. Anand was also arrested in this connection, and afterwards he was released because he was found innocent. According to the press reports, when Mr. Soloman was in the Rohtak police station, he was chatting with the police and the police was chatting with him and cutting jokes with him, whereas Mr. Anand, a law graduate who had been released later because he was found innocent, was mercilessly beaten and was subjected to all kinds of man-handling. This shows the differential attitude of the police to a known criminal, Mr. Soloman, against whom other cases had been instituted before and another Mr. Anand who had also been arrested in this case. This clearly indicates that certain complicity of the police was there and is still there.

So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any investigation has been started or will be started to ascertain whether in this ring of criminals, Mr. Soloman and Mr. Sharma are not alone and whether the police and other element have any association or complicity with the smugglers.

I would also like to know whether Government take a serious view of the thing that it is due to a certain kind of laxity or corrupt practice on the part of the Customs or the institution of the banks which issue foreign exchange. Otherwise,, how could a non-descript person, a known criminal, get hold of such a big amount of foreign currency? I want to know whether the Home Minister will advise the Ministry of Finance to go into the matter and if need be, to enforce the law more strictly in order to see that the smuggling of foreign currency is stopped.

Thirdly, I want to know whether Government are undertaking any joint effort with the Government of Nepal, because it is from there that hashish is being smuggled in order to stop, control and check this business of smuggling of hashish. I would also like to know whether Government have alerted the Interpol and whether they are going to take any steps with the help of the Interpol, in view of the ramification of smuggling all over the world.

Lastly, since it is not an instance of recent occurrence, and as I have stated already, it has been going on for long, and perhaps other things are also involved, may I know whether Government will institute a CBI inquiry into the whole matter in order to unearth this ring of conspiracy in regard to this hashish smuggling?

SHRI UMA SHANKAR DIKSHIT: The hon. Member has referred to a number of facts and very serious facts at that, which are all mentioned in the statement. We have given all these facts. I am sure he is impressed by the fact that so much of hashish and foreign currency has been seized and very quick action was taken at all the relevant places. Therefore, it is hardly necessary for me to assure the House and the hon. Member that we do take a serious view of the matter, and we shall pursue this. We have already alerted the Interpol—and, as I have already stated—and I would repeat, in collaboration and in consultation with the Ministry of Finance officials connected with enforcement, we shall certainly pursue this matter most vigorously. So far as Shri Vijay Anand is concerned, he was found to have been present at the Delhi airport. He had gone to receive Ashok Soloman. Certainly, until we find something definitely involving him, we do not propose and the police does not propose to take any action against him. But I am not in a position to say that this gentleman or

any other person is necessarily free from blame. So, I do not think that the hon. Member need complain about it. I request that it is a serious case, though we have tumbled into it in the course of another investigation.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Let him not miss my point. I was pointing out that the complicity of the police was indicated by the differential treatment which the police meted out to Mr. Ashok Soloman and to Mr. Anand. The implication is clear that there was certain complicity between the police and Mr. Soloman.

SHRI UMA SHANKAR DIKSHIT: It is the other way round. In this case, when everybody concerned has been arrested, and when vigorous efforts are being made, to complain of complicity on the part of the police is not fair.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: I had put two other questions. Nepal is the main source for the smuggling of hashish. I would like to know whether Government of India have undertaken any joint effort with the Government of Nepal and whether they are entrusting the matter to the CBI.

MR. SPEAKER: May I draw his attention to one rule in this regard? The rule is very clear that a question can be asked. Whenever he asks a question, whatever be in his mind, the question should be one self-contained question. But since the hon. Member had put more than one question and went on asking 'whether....' 'whether....', it is very confusing for the hon. Minister also to reply....

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: They were different parts of the same question. I wanted to know whether Government were going to undertake a joint effort with the Government of Nepal and whether the matter would be entrusted to the CBI.

MR. SPEAKER: He should be brief and concise in his question and the question must be single and self-contained.

SHRI UMA SHANKAR DIKSHIT: Obviously, there should be no implication that the Government of Nepal is involved; smuggling takes place despite the precautions taken by both governments. Wherever it is necessary, we shall certainly ask for co-operation of the Government of Nepal.

SHRI R. K. SINHA (Faizabad): The statement of the Minister of Home Affairs is very convincing. The Government took all steps necessary in apprehending the criminals over which we should be happy and should congratulate the Minister.

But there are certain other things which are becoming obvious due to the efforts of the Ministers of Finance and Home Affairs in the last few months. In the last few months, there have been dozens and dozens of cases where people have been apprehended and arrested so much, so that the *Blitz* came out with a story giving the itinerary of customs officials and arrests of people.

Out of these arrests, a few things have emerged. One is that it is the small fry who is punished. If the original conspirator, the original receiver, who is part of the international link and the boss is not discovered, the gang will remain alive, because when the small fry is punished, his family is financed by this international gang and the gang continues to operate and gets the man back in employment after he is released. So it is necessary that a more thorough search, a hunt, is made of these organisations which take way so much of the wealth of the nation. Black money is used for buying these foreign goods and after this, the black money is regenerated and again the same thing continues.

[Shri R. K. Sinha]

It is one of the parts of the generation of black money in this country and we have to be careful about it.

There is open sale on pavements in different parts of the country of smuggled goods. These are the places from which pursuit must be made of people who bring these smuggled goods. There must be a check on the shops which sell these goods; they must be forced to divulge the secret as to who are the people who have sold these goods to them. Thus the original organisers, the gang-masters, who generate millions of rupees of black money must be apprehended. In these conspiracies, sometimes a solitary politician, thousands of businessmen and so many policemen might also be involved. Therefore, it is necessary that this thing which is draining away millions and millions of rupees of our national wealth must be stopped.

There is another thing. There was a news-item in a Calcutta daily which said that there were certain foreign embassies involved in this smuggling racket in the last two years. *The Hindusthan Standard* reported that there were certain embassies which were involved in this. It should be ensured that those who seek protection on the ground that they are foreign nationals who are representing their countries in India are not allowed to have any links with smugglers and should not become smugglers themselves. Such people must also be apprehended.

Recently in Delhi one German national, George Heinrichh, was arrested with three kilos of hashish. He might have had a link with Soloman.

There are other things also which are important in this connection. The artificial border with Nepal has to be policed and it has to be protected against smuggling of hashish, smuggling of Indian goods into Nepal and smuggling of goods from Hongkong and Singapore to Nepal and their resale in India.

Lastly, I appeal to the Home Minister to strengthen the laws of the land. There must be a stronger law and deterrent punishment provided to the smuggler and those who help him.

SHRI UMA SHANKAR DIKSHIT: He has suggested a number of measures. We will examine them all.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): Sir, smuggled goods are sold by the customs. Anybody who purchases them from the customs house should not be arrested.

श्री मधु लिमये (बांका): अध्यक्ष महोदय, स्थगन प्रस्तावों का क्या हुआ? आधा दर्जन स्थगन प्रस्ताव आपके सामने हैं

अध्यक्ष महोदय: मैंने नहीं लिया है।

श्री मधु लिमये: वे सरकार की बड़ी बड़ी असफलताओं के बारे में हैं। कल तो केवल दामों की चर्चा हुई है।

12.36½ hrs.

RE: ISSUE OF ORDINANCE INCREASING EXCISE DUTY ON PETROL, KEROSENE OIL, ETC.

MR. SPEAKER: I asked the Law Minister to throw some light on the point of order raised yesterday on the ordinance that was issued.

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE): If you desire and direct us that I should make a statement on the question.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (ग्वालियर): अध्यक्ष महोदय, इस से पहले कि विधी मंत्री वक्तव्य दें, मेरा निवेदन है कि यह मामला प्रमुख रूप से आप से सम्बन्धित है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं तो बिल्कुल क्लीयर हूं चूंकि आप ने कहा था इसलिये मैंने मिनिस्टर साहब को बुलाया है। अगर आप नहीं चाहते हैं, तो मैं रहने देता हूं।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, पहली लोक सभा में स्पीकर के पद पर बैठे हुये श्री मावलंकर ने जो विचार व्यक्त किये थे, वे आप के सामने होंगे। विधि मंत्री तो केवल कानूनी पहलू बता सकते हैं, लेकिन पार्लियामेंट के अधिकारों की रक्षा करना आप का काम है।

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE (Calcutta-North-East): We made a very clear submission. We wanted your ruling, and preparatory to that ruling, you required the assistance of the Law Minister, perhaps among others who also will assist you. But you have to make a pronouncement on it, whatever is in your mind.

MR. SPEAKER: I studied it myself, and I am very clear on it.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE: Whatever you are clear about, you will indicate to us in understandable language a little later. (*Interruption*). I want to have your ruling. This is a very serious proposition.

MR. SPEAKER: You want to hear the Minister.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE: Not particularly. You wanted the assistance of the Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: This is not something which is new before this House. I think he may have something to explain to you on those things.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE: A very serious constitutional point was involved in the point of order raised by Mr. Vajpayee yesterday. And that is why we look up to you to tell us something which would mean something important in the functioning of parliamentary democracy in this country. You only wanted the assistance of the Law Minister as an expert jurist to tell you something about the point of order. And in regard to that point of order, very probably on the submissions made by him, you should give an opportunity for other Members also to place their views.

MR. SPEAKER: If you want to hear why they brought this ordinance from the other side, they are welcome to do it. Personally, I am very clear about it in my own ruling.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE: But we are making a very clear distinction between our attitude as Members of Parliament to the ordinance and to the idea of Government taxing the country by ordinance. You may consider that to be a frivolous point, but it agitates our mind and we do have an idea that it has constitutional implications of a serious order.

MR. SPEAKER: Not at all frivolous.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE: That is why we should have a discussion.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA (Begusarai): In the ultimate analysis, the Chair has to give the ruling in the matter. But at this stage, we have no objection to the hon'ble Law Minister intervening and saying something on behalf of the Government as to why they felt it necessary to come

[Shri Shyamnandan Mishra]

forward with the ordinance. We can hear that very well, but in the ultimate analysis, the Chair's ruling has to come.

MR. SPEAKER: I can give without the Law Minister even now, but if you want to listen why they came out with the ordinance, I have no objection. He is not to bind me with whatever his observations are. I have my own ruling on that.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): Sir, after all, this ordinance has been issued under article 123. If you read the provisions in that article, you will see that through an ordinance the Government can collect funds or revenues. It is a clear thing, and the explanation is also there under the same article. Here, the Law Minister is part and parcel of the entire Cabinet.

When they passed the Ordinance, I presume the President or the Prime Minister or the Minister should have consulted the Finance Minister. Here it is the collective responsibility of the Cabinet and the Law Minister is also a party to this decision. If you want to consult any law officer, it should be the Attorney General and not the Law Minister because he is a party to the entire thing.

श्री मधु लिमये : (बांका) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मुझे कुछ कहना है। मैंने कल जो आप की बात सुनी उससे मेरे ऊपर यह असर हुआ कि औचित्य के बारे में यह सफाई देंगे। अब आप कह रहे हैं कि आर्डिनेंस क्यों निकाला इस की सफाई दें। वह तो देवकान्त बरूआ जी दे चुके। सवाल आर्डिनेंस निकालने के कारणों का नहीं है। वाजपेयी जी का सवाल यह नहीं था। उस के औचित्य के बारे में यह कुछ कहें तो वह हम सुनने के लिए तैयार हैं। लेकिन क्यों आर्डिनेंस निकाला अगर उसके कारण वह बताना चाहते हैं तो वह हम सुनने के लिए तैयार नहीं हैं।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : अगर आप उन से इस के बारे में सुनना चाहते हैं तो खुशी से सुनिए और आप मेरी रूलिंग अगर सुनना चाहते हैं तो सुन लीजिए।

SHRI DASARATHA DEB (Tripura East): The point made by Mr. Banerjee is quite right because when the Government takes a decision to issue an Ordinance, the Law Minister is part and parcel of the Cabinet and his duty would be to defend or justify the Government here, not to clarify the constitutional point. That is why it is before you to give a ruling. You should not be guided by him.

MR. SPEAKER: As far as this point is concerned, I personally do not need the Law Minister's guidance to give my ruling.

SHRI S. A. SHAMIM (Srinagar): Please do not give your ruling just now.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : शमीम साहब आप बैठिए। कुछ मुझे पता लगे कि आप के मन में क्या है? मुझे कहते हैं कि रूलिंग भी दें और फिर कहते हैं कि ला मिनिस्टर को भी सुनें।

SHRI S. A. SHAMIM: The constitutional validity of the Ordinance is not in question; Government can issue an Ordinance, the condition precedent being that the Legislature should not be in session and there must be an emergency which compels the Government to issue the Ordinance. That is how an Ordinance should be issued. In Punjab the Government recently issued an Ordinance that Legislators can hold office of profit and it is now being questioned. This is a parallel example. Keeping that in view, we have

to see whether there was necessity, was there constitutional propriety in issuing an Ordinance when a new tax was being levied. That is the question. We know that the Constitution provides. Here we would like the Speaker to say whether the Government had done the right thing or not. If we had to question the legal validity, you would have found us in the Supreme Court, not here. The point is whether the Government has behaved or misbehaved in the exercise of that power.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR (Ahmedabad): The hon. Member Shri Vajpayee yesterday raised an important and basic issue dealing with both parliamentary democracy and our own Constitution. Can any executive Government take Parliament for granted, especially in regard to taxation policies? Yesterday, when this matter was raised we said: let the Law Minister assist you and then you can give your ruling. Instead of coming out with a statement here, let him assist you in the Chamber you must have before you the statement from the Law Minister and you should kindly allow us to explain our points of view. Otherwise you will be denying us an opportunity to express our views.

MR. SPEAKER: He says that the Law Minister has got to defend the actions of his Cabinet. But as far as the ruling is concerned, it is not only for my knowledge but for your knowledge also.

I have looked into the precedents and I find the position has been very clearly stated by my predecessors as well as by myself. After going through them, I do not think I need the advice of the Law Minister.

श्री श्यामनन्दन मिश्र : हम लोग कुछ सबमीशन कर दें तब आप उन की रोशनी में रूलिंग दीजिए ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : बड़ी खुशी से करिए ।

I have got the rulings right from the time of my distinguished predecessor, Shri Mavalankar. He did not approve of ordinances on the eve of Parliament session. It was repeated by others till I came here. On 22nd November, 1971, Shri Indrajit Gupta raised a similar point, saying that,

> "13 ordinances which are now being presented in the form of Bills relate to additional measures of taxation. They are different from other ordinances."

I said,—

> "Ordinance is an ordinance whatever it might be....I have tried to see whether there could be any ordinance demarcated into financial and also non-financial ordinance.... I had already made in very strong terms some observation. But if you think that there should be some distinction between financial and non-financial, tax and non-tax ordinance, there is nothing in my knowledge on which I can base my ruling. All I can say is, I do not approve of an ordinance just at the time when the House is about to meet."

Ordinances by themselves are not very welcome, specially so when the date is very clear. It is not only clear but it is also near. In such cases, unless there are very very special reasons, ordinance should be avoided. This is the ruling which I gave on 22nd November, 1971—and the same was given by my predecessors.

श्री मधु लिमये : लेकिन ये, परसिस्टेंटली चेयर को डिफाई करते जाते हैं अध्यक्ष की अवहेलना करते जा रहे हैं, इसका कोई इलाज होगा ?

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : नहीं, अध्यक्ष महोदय, क्या आप यह रूलिंग देकर अपनी जिम्मेदारी से मुक्त हो जायेंगे ? क्या आप यह नहीं देखेंगे कि सरकार आपकी रूलिंग के हिसाब से आचरण करती है या नहीं करती है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : कांस्टीट्यूशन में जो ला-मेकिंग पावर्स हैं और आर्डिनेंस के संबंध में जो पावर्स हैं उसमें आप तब्दीली करिए और मेरे हाथ में कुछ ताकत दीजिए, तब तो मैं कुछ कर सकता हूं। मैंने तो प्रोप्राइटी पर रूलिंग दी है। लीगैलिटी पर तो मैं क्या कह सकता हूं।

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: There is no statute even in Englnad that all Money Bills should originate in the House of Commons itself. It was only after a continuous and tenacious struggle that the supremacy and the authority of the House of Commons came to be established. So, it is not a matter of legal or constitutional provision. It is a matter of convention and we want to set up this convention that when Parliament has been summoned and the date has been announced, Government should not come forward with any ordinance. But I am not one of those who subscribe to the view that in matters of taxation Government should not come forward at any stage with any ordinance.

I would not subscribe to that, because there may be a vacuum when a particular law has been invalidated and the exchequer might come to incur loss. So, the Government may be compelled to come forward with an Ordinance. It is in this perspective that I do not agree with the view that in the matter of taxation, there should not be any Ordinance at any stage. Even so, when the Parliament has been summoned. is it not imperatively necessary that the Ordinance should be of such a nature that it is not made operative until it is approved by Parliament?

MR. SPEAKER: It is on the eve of the Parliament session.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: It makes the situation grave that the taxation has been made operative. Could not the Ordinance have been framed in a way so as to make these taxes operative after the approval of Parliament with retrospective effect? I have gone into this matter. An Ordinance can be made retrospective. Now we are giving only a rubber stamp.

MR. SPEAKER: The Bill would be coming before you when you can express your view on that.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: What I am submitting is that the Chair should also take into account this fact that this tax is borne by the people even before the approval of Parliament is given.

MR. SPEAKER: I am prepared to sit with you when you can let me know whether I have got that authority.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: A convention has to be established. If we want to have a struggle in Parliament for establishing this convention, this is one step we have taken in this direction.

MR. SPEAKER: So far as this House is concerned, it also goes by conventions. The conventions here are the earlier rulings. I gave the same ruling which was given by my predecessor.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: We do not want your rulings to become infructuous.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE: What you have just now said gives the cue to what I was submitting. Right from the time of Speaker Mavalankar to your time, the Chair has repeatedly expressed itself against the impropriety of Government introducing Ordinances during the recess, especially when the next session was so very near, and this has happened, and the Government goes on violating a direction of the Chair, that is, of the whole House. Then again, the question that was referred to by my friend, Shri Mishra, is one which has got to be gone into at some depth, because this particular article 123, which provides the President with the power to promulgate Ordinances, is a very sad relic of the Government of India, Act, 1935, and the result is that the much-cherished liberties of the critizen continue to be violated.

In regard to taxation measures there is a long history to the arrogation to the elected chamber of representatives of the people their right of originating taxation measures, and there is an entire array of constitutional provisions in regard to Money Bills, financial provisions and all that. There must be a point to it.

Now legislation by Ordinance, normal legislation in special circumstances, might be connived at, might even be justified, but taxation by Ordinance, particularly on the eve of a Parliament session, is an absolutely retrograde and reprehension action, and it is entirely against the grain of parliamentary decency, but yet this kind of thing continues to be practised. There should be no taxation without representation, is an old slogan which was echoed in this House yesterday and here taxation measures are introduced on the sly by the Government at a point of time when Parliament was going to be called in ten days' time. This is contempt of the Parliament, this is treating the elected members of the House with contumely, this is doing something which is entirely unconstitutional.

We know that for purposes of legislation the President and the two Houses of Parliament are together. But this House, our House, we make bold to say, because we are the elected House we have a very special position in regard to financial legislation and taxation measures and that special position of this House can never be impinged upon by the kind of Government action which has been taken. Therefore, from every point of view, constitutional, political and financial, this is something which is utterly unconstitutional.

In regard to the substantial nature of the Ordinance and the content of it, there will be a discussion later on. But I have tried to indicate that there is a long history to the whole process, going to the days of Magna Carta and the Bill of Rights. Since we have adopted this system, we have to work it in a proper spirit to the extent it is in conformity with the interest of our country and our people.

Here, we discover something which is done in defiance of Parliament. In spite of the rulings you yourself have given and the rulings given by the hon. Speaker Mr. Mavalankar—you have reaffirmed it—the Government treats all these observations of the Chair that are directives by implication to the Government, with contempt and contumely. That is absolutely something that goes against the grain of Parliamentary decency. You represent all the sections of the House and you assert the dignity and the authority of the House over the kind of fiddling that the Government tries to do perhaps because it is sure of its overwhelming majority.

SOME HON. MEMBERS *rose*—

MR. SPEAKER: There is going to be a discussion on the Bill. You please sit down. I am not allowing any further debate on it now. All I can do is to fix time for that. I will have the discretion to extend the time on that.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Article 123(2) (b) says:

"may be withdrawn at any time by the President."

Since the President has promulgated the Ordinance, after knowing your reaction, after your ruling, Sir, he may withdraw it.

MR. SPEAKER: Don't go too far. That is not my job to do it. No more discussion please. You can take it up at the time when the Bill comes.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai): We are happy with the ruling that you have given. I want to know what is the reaction of the Government. The President acts on the advice of the Government. What is the reaction of the Government to the ruling that you have given now?

MR. SPEAKER: Papers to be laid.

12.57 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

LAW COMMISSIONS REPORT ON CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE, 1908, DELIMITATION OF COUNCIL CONSTITUENCIES (ANDHRA PRADESH) AMENDMENT ORDER, 1973, ETC.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Fifty-fourth Report of the Law Commission on the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-5663/73.]

(2) A copy of the Delimitation of Council Constituencies (Andhra Pradesh) Amendment Order, 1973 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 445(E), in Gazette of India dated the 18th September, 1973, under sub-section (3) of section 13 of the Representation of People Act, 1950. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-5663/73.]

(3) A copy of the Conduct of Elections (Amendment) Rules, 1973 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 505 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th September, 1973, under sub-section (3) of section 169 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-5664/73.]

(4) A copy of Notification No. S.O. 461(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd September, 1973 containing Order No. 5 of the Delimitation Commission in respect of the State of Uttar Pradesh, under sub-section (3) of section 10 of the Delimitation Act, 1972. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-5665/73.]

12.58 hrs.

ASSENT TO BILLS

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I lay on the Table following three Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the last session and assented to since a report was last made to the House on the 5th September, 1973:—

(1) The Coking and Non-coking Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 1973.

(2) The Orissa Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 1973.

(3) The Manipur Appropriation

2. Sir, I also lay on the Table copies, duly authenticated by the Secretary of Rajya Sabha, of the following ten Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament and assented to since a report was last made to the House on the 5th September, 1973:—

(1) The Mysore State (Alteration of Name) Bill, 1973.

(2) The National Co-operative Development Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 1973.

(3) The Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands (Alteration of Name) Bill, 1973.

(4) The Customs, Gold (Control) and Central Excises and Salt (Amendment) Bill, 1973.

(5) The Agricultural Refinance Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 1973.

(6) The Employees' Provident Funds and Family Pension Fund (Amendment) Bill, 1973.

(7) The Reserve Bank of India (Amendment) Bill, 1973.

(8) The Indian Railways (Amendment) Bill, 1973.

(9) The Foreign Exchange Regulation Bill, 1973.

(10) The Constitution (Thirty-first Amendment) Bill, 1973.

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13 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

THIRTY-THIRD REPORT

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH): I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Thirty-third Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 12th November, 1973."

SOME HON. MEMBERS rose—

MR. SPEAKER: This is the Motion moved by Shri Raghu Ramaiah that the House do agree with the Thirty-third Report of the B.A.C. presented to the House on 12th November, 1973.

As you know, we have the procedure that when the Minister announces the business of the House for the next week, then I allow you to speak. But not when the B.A.C. Report is put to vote.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (ग्वालियर) : अध्यक्ष जी, मैं इसी के बारे में कह रहा हूं। यह बात तय होनी चाहिए कि जब चर्चा के लिए विषय लिए जाते हैं तो 193 के भी नोटिस दिए जाते हैं और 184 के भी नोटिस दिए जाते हैं। क्या यह बात सरकार पर छोड़ी जायेगी कि वह 193 का मोशन पसन्द करती है या 184 का। यदि 184 के द्वारा किसी विषय पर हम सदन की राय प्रकट करना चाहते हैं तो क्या सरकार को अधिकार है कि वह कहे हमें 184 पसन्द नहीं है, 193 हम चाहते हैं।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह तो कल कमेटी में फैसला हुआ है। इसमें सरकार की पसन्द की बात ही नहीं हुई, जो कमेटी को पसन्द हुआ वह बात हुई।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : हम यहां पर काम रोको प्रस्ताव में फंसे हुए थे।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप काम को रोकना ही क्यों चाहते हैं।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : यहां हमने काम रोकने की कोशिश की और वहां काम जारी रहा।

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Thirty-third Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 12th November, 1973."

The motion was adopted.

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13. 02 hrs.

MATTER UNDER RULE 377

ALLEGED FAILURE OF GOVERNMENT TO INFORM THE HOUSE ABOUT ABOLITION OR REDUCTION OF EXPORT DUTY ON JUTE GOODS

श्री मधु लिमये (बांका) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, आज मैं जो सवाल उठा रहा हूं वह कम से कम 100 करोड़ रुपये का मामला है।

18 जुलाई, 1973 को सरकार ने आसाम बाटम किस्म के पाट के लिए 157.68 रुपये प्रति क्विंटल के हिसाब से कलकत्ता डिलीवरी का दाम निर्धारित किया गया। 19 अगस्त को व्यापार मंत्री श्री चट्टोपाध्याय ने कलकत्ता में एक प्रेस सम्मेलन किया। उसमें उन्होंने कहा कि पाट के सामान पर निर्यात शुल्क घटाने या समाप्त करने का सुझाव उनके मंत्रालय ने दिया है ताकि कृत्रिम सामानों की तुलना में पाट के सामानों की स्पर्द्धा करने की क्षमता अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय मंडियों में बढ़ सके। उन्होंने आगे यह भी कहा कि उनके सुझाव पर वित्त मंत्रालय विचार कर रहा है और उनकी प्रतिक्रिया अनुकूल मालूम पड़ रही है।

व्यापार मंत्री ने, मेरी राय में, दो किस्म औचित्य भंग किया। पहला, वित्त मंत्रालय से अन्तिम सूचना प्राप्त होने के पहले ही उन्होंने एक प्रेस सम्मेलन में निर्यात शुल्क घटाने और समाप्त करने की घोषणा की और यह भी कह दिया कि वित्त मंत्रालय इसके पक्ष में है। दूसरा औचित्य भंग यह हुआ कि व्यापार मंत्री ने ऐसे सुझाव की घोषणा कलकत्ते में एक प्रेस सम्मेलन में की जिसमें सरकारी खजाने को 18 करोड़ रुपये का घाटा होने वाला था अध्यक्ष महोदय, जैसा कि आपने कई बार फरमाया है कर सम्बन्धी मामला लोक सभा के सामने सबसे पहले आना चाहिए न कि प्रेस सम्मेलनों के सामने, खास कर के जब कि लोक सभा का सत्र चल रहा हो।

26 सितम्बर, 1973 को केन्द्र सरकार ने जूट मिल मालिकों के ऊपर आदेश जारी किया कि अक्तूबर के अन्त तक कच्चे पाट की 14 लाख गाठें वह निर्धारित दाम पर खरीदें। व्यापार मंत्री ने जूट कारपोरेशन को भी यह आदेश दिया था कि वह भी उत्पादकों से निश्चित दाम पर 15 लाख गांठें खरीद लें।

लेकिन जूट मिल-मालिकों ने, न ही जूट कारपोरेशन ने सरकारी आदेशों का पालन किया। सरकार ने निर्धारित दामों में जो क्विंटल पीछे 12 रुपये की छूट दे दी थी उससे भी उनको संतोष नहीं हुआ। स्वयं श्री चट्टोपाध्याय कलकत्ता में यह कहने के लिए बाध्य हो गये कि उनको जूट उद्योग के व्यवहार से घोर निराशा हुई

है। उन्होंने स्वीकारा कि सरकार ने निर्यात शुल्क बढ़ाने तथा समाप्त करने का जो असाधारण कदम उठाया था वह असफल हो गया है क्योंकि न जूट उद्योग ने जूट की खरीद तेजी से करने का काम किया न उसने अपने सामानों के दामों को कम कर अपनी अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय स्पर्द्धा करने की क्षमता को बढ़ाया।

जैसा कि कलकत्ता के "कैपिटल" साप्ताहिक ने कहा, निर्यात शुल्क घटाने के बाद जूट के सामानों के दामों में जो परिवर्तन हुआ है वह अपेक्षा के बिल्कुल बरखिलाफ था। हेसियन और सैकिंग के दामों में बहुत बड़ी वृद्धि हुई है और निर्यात शुल्क का जो असर होना चाहिए था बिल्कुल उसके उल्टा काम हो गया है। खरीदने वालों को दाम निर्यात शुल्क घटाने के बाद अधिक ही देने पड़ रहे हैं। यह सर्वविदित है कि अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय दाम अन्दरूनी दामों पर ही निर्भर करते हैं।

जूट सामानों के दामों में 20 प्रतिशत से अधिक इजाफा होने के बाद भी व्यापार मंत्री वित्त मंत्रालय के साथ सांठ-गांठ करके जूट उद्योग को और अधिक रियायतें देने पर आमादा हो गये। पाट खरीदने के लिए जूट उद्योग को रिजर्व बैंक और स्टेट बैंक की सम्मति से 30 करोड़ रुपये का कर्जा दिया जा रहा है।

व्यापार मंत्री की अयोग्यता और गलत नीतियों के कारण 20 करोड़ रुपया सीधा कृषक उत्पादकों से छीन कर जूट उद्योग को दिया गया है। इसके ऊपर निर्यात शुल्क घटा कर और समाप्त कर उसको 18 करोड़ रुपये की दक्षिणा भी दी गई है। इसमें कलकत्ते के बाहर सस्ते दाम पे जो जूट खरीदा गया उससे उद्योग को जो लाभ हुआ उसको तो जोड़ा ही नहीं है। इन सारी बातों को देखते हुए यह स्पष्ट हो जाता है कि आजादी के बाद इतना मुनाफा जूट उद्योग को पहले कभी नहीं हुआ था। दर्शन के प्राध्यापक महोदय ने जूट उद्योग के हित-सम्बन्धी लोगों के दलाल (ब्रोकर) का काम किया है और खरीदार तथा उत्पादकों को लूटा है।

इसलिए मेरी मांग है कि :—

1. निर्यात शुल्क को फिर से लाद दिया जाये क्योंकि वैकल्पिक कृत्रिम माल की "कैपिटल" साप्ताहिक के कथनानुसार अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय पंडियों में कमी है ;
2. वी० ट्विल सरकार अपनी आवश्यकताओं के लिए 100 डॉ के हेसियन को 240 रुपये की दर से खरीदे। अन्य सामान भी वह निर्धारित दाम से जूट उद्योग से ले ले ;
3. सरकार जूट उद्योग के ऊपर एक नई टैक्स या सेस लगा दे और उससे जो राशि मिलेगी उसका इस्तेमाल वह जूट की खेती के सुधार के लिए जूट उत्पादकों को मदद के रूप में दे दे।

मंत्री महोदय ने अपनी अयोग्यता का जो इजहार किया है, जूट हित सम्बन्धियों के

[श्री मधु लिमये]

सामने जो घुटने टेके हैं, और लोक सभा को विश्वास में लेने से जो इन्कार किया है, उसके लिए वे सदन से माफी मांगें।

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA): The Ministry of Commerce have for some time now been concerned with the downward trend in the export of jute goods and on the basis of available information it came to the conclusion that the main reason for this trend in the exports was due to competition from the synthetic substitutes. The price of synthetics subsruling uniformly at a lower level and with the fact that there was a large capacity already created, it was expected that the price would further go down with the increase in the scale of production. We have been steadily losing the United States market, and, but for the gains that we have been able to make in East European Countries, we would have been much worse off. Also the price of jute goods produced by Bangladesh were on an average lower by about 5 to 10 per cent as compared to the price of Indian products. While efforts to bring about cost reduction was considered essential, since this was by its very nature a long-term effort, it was felt that the abolition or reduction of export duties would have the effect of restoring the competitive position of Indian jute products. This assessment was made on the basis of empirical data available during the second quarter of 1973 and on the basis of reports from various markets. The matter was therefore, taken up with the Ministry of Finance and a case was made out for the reduction of export duty on sacking and hessian. Earlier, the Ministry of Finance had agreed to reduction on export duty on carpet backing and this had already had a healthy impact on export of carpet

backing. The industry had been continuously pressing for complete abolition of export duty and it is in this context that in a meeting on "the problems and prospects of the jute industry" in Calcutta held on the 18th August, 1973 that I gave an indication that the question of affording fiscal relief on hessian and sacking was under the active consideration of the Government and I also mentioned that some positive action would be taken. There was no announcement—I repeat, there was no announcement—of reduction, abolition etc., of export duty on jute manufactures in the meeting. Since the final decision in regard to adjustment of export duty rests with the Ministry of Finance, it is they who could make any official announcement in this regard. The actual announcement in regard to reduction of export duty was by a notification by the Ministry of Finance on the 28th August, 1973. It is, therefore, submitted that the statement quoted in the press does not amount to an announcement of reduction or abolition of export duty and was merely an indication of the fact that the Government had taken due note of the representations of the industry and was having the matter examined in its proper perspective. I say, the Ministry has thought. Thought does not mean action. And the Ministry can express its thought on a very vital matter when it was being taken up. The question was also put to me.

I would, therefore, submit that no breach of privilege is involved.

श्री मधु लिमये : अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह मामला इतना मामूली नहीं है। इन्होंने कई गलत बयान तो किये ही हैं। लेकिन मैं आप से चाहता हूं कि आप इस के ऊपर निर्णय दीजिए। आप सुन तो लीजिए हमारी बात।

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry I cannot give any ruling on it. Under 377 you were asked to invite the attention of the Minister. And the Minister has made his own case. Beyond that, I have nothing else to do.

SHRI MADHU LIMAYE: Are you satisfied with that.

MR. SPEAKER: It is the decision of the House. There is no question of my being satisfied with this or not satisfied with this at all.

श्री मधु लिमये : बिल्कुल है ।

MR. SPEAKER: There is no question of my giving a ruling on it. Please do not take away discussion under Rule 377 beyond its limit.

श्री मधु लिमये : अध्यक्ष महोदय, क्या आप की यह रूलिंग है कि टैक्सेशन के मामले में इस तरह बाहर बोला जाए ? आप कई बार रूलिंग दे चुके हैं । आप बदलना चाहते हैं अपनी रूलिंग को तो दूसरी बात है । 100 करोड़ रु० बर्बाद हो रहा है, कोई मामूली बात नहीं है ।

MR. SPEAKER: We now adjourn for lunch to re-assemble at fifteen minutes past two.

13.14 hrs.

The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch till fifteen minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

The Lok Sabha reassembled after Lunch at ninteen minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Re. RETRENCHMENT IN FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA (U.P. REGION)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Chattopadhyaya.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: (Kanpur): May I make one submission I had given notice of it earlier this morning. The services of more than 800 employees of the Food Corporation of India (UP Region) have been terminated and more than 288 people have been superannuated, that is, compulsorily retired. When the Food Corporation has decided to tackle the food situation in the country, how is it that in the UP region, about a thousand men are going to be retrenched? Prof. Sher Singh is here, and I would request you, Sir, to ask him to make a statement. This is a serious affair because they are going on strike shortly.

Re. CANCELLATION OF 250 PASSENGER TRAINS DUE TO SCARCITY OF COAL

श्री मधु लिमये (बांका): दो बातों की ओर मैं सरकार का ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूं । जैसा कि आप जानते हैं कि कोयले की के अभाव के नाम पर ढाई सौ गाड़ियां बन्द हो चुकीं हैं । आज की खबर है कि अकेले वाराणसी डिविजन में नार्थ ईस्टर्न रेलवे की कई गाड़ियां रद्द कर दी गई हैं । जिस इलाके से आप आते हैं वहां की नार्थ ईस्टर्न फ्रंटियर रेलवे पर भी गाड़ियां रद्द हो गई हैं । नादर्न रेलवे, ईस्टर्न रेलवे, साउथ-ईस्टर्न रेलवे, सदर्न रेलवे सब में बन्द हुई हैं । स्टील और मांइज के मिनिस्टर कहते हैं कि कोयले की पैदावार इस साल ज्यादा है विगत साल की तुलना में । यह क्या मामला है ? इसके ऊपर रेलवे मंत्रालय को सफाई करनी चाहिये और इनको भी खुलासा करना चाहिये । एविएशन फ्यूल के अभाव में 24 फ्लाइंग क्लबज बन्द हो रही हैं जहां नौजवानों को ट्रैनिंग मिलती है । ये क्लबें सब बन्द हो

[श्री मधु लिमये]

जाएंगी तो आगे चलकर उसका नौजवानों की ट्रेनिंग पर और सिविल एविएशन पर भी असर पड़ सकता है। इन दोनों बातों के बारे में मैं चाहता हूं कि सरकार की ओर से सफाई पेश हो।

14.2 hrs.

TEXTILES COMMITTEE (AMENDMENT) BILL

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA): I beg to move:*

"That the Bill to amend the Textiles Committee Act, 1963, be taken into consideration".

The Textiles Committee was constituted on 22nd August, 1964 as a successor to the Cotton Textiles Fund Committee under s. 3 of the Textiles Committee Act, 1963. The functions of this Committee are to establish standard specifications for texiles and affix suitable marks on such standardised varieties of textiles, and undertake inspection of textiles and textile machinery including pre-shipment inspection of goods meant for export. Towards this end, the Textiles Committee sets up test houses and undertakes scientific, technological and economic investigations into various facets of the textile industry. The Committee has done useful work in the field of market research and has taken steps for the establishment of a central laboratory at Bombay along with test houses at some of its regional centres at Calcutta, Coimbatore, Delhi and Madras.

The objects of the proposed amendment are the following: (a) The activities of the Committee are presently financed by levy of a fees at rates fixed by Government on the total production of cotton cloth, collulosic and non-collulosic filament yarn, woollen yarn and textile machinery. The Committee also charges pre-shipment inspection fees on cotton yarn and natural silk yarn and fabrics meant for export. With the increasing volume of items to be standardised and inspected, the operations of the Committee have grown substantially but there has been no commensurate growth in the availability of financial resources at the Committee's disposal. In the Amendment Bill, it is proposed to levy a cess on total production of textiles and textile machinery in the country at rates not exceeding one per cent *ad valorem*. The rate of one per cent *ad valorem* will constitute the ceiling with in which the Government may fix the operative rate from time to time in accordance with the needs of the Committee. Collections effected by the Committee would be credited to the Consolidated Fund of India and appropriations made according to the Committee's requirements with Parliament's approval under the budgetary procedure.

(b) The Act is not presently applicable to the State of Jammu and Kashmir. It is the intention of the proposed amendment that the application of the Act should be extended to Jammu and Kashmir State as well.

(c) Opportunity has been taken in the revised Act to rationalise the definition of 'textiles'. As previously defined in the Act, 'textiles' do not include garments and other made-ups and man-made fibres. The word 'textiles' has, therefore, been redefined in the Amendment Bill now before the House to make it more comprehensive.

There are other minor and consequential changes which have also been effected in the Act.

I move.

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* Moved with the recommendation of the President.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to amend the Textiles Committee Act, 1963, be taken into consideration".

SHRI BIREN DUTTA (Tripura West): This amendment Bill, as Prof. Chattopadhyaya has just now mentioned, has only one intention, to augment the funds of the Textiles Committee. But I want to know from the Government what was actually done. So far as our knowledge goes, the Committee could not check the export of bad materials outside India. Take, for instance, hosiery goods, for the supply of which material there was a great demand in Bangladesh after the liberation war. India provided this material, but in fact, what has happened is, due to this bad supply of the textile materials in Bangladesh, 90 per cent of the people who had good friendly feelings towards India turned against us. Mr. Chattopadhyaya himself. If knows it because he belongs to that area. The people are coming here from that side and telling us what stuff has been supplied and who looks after these things. After the great liberation war, the feelings of the Bangladesh people which were in favour of India, have been marred by these things. But yet there is a Committee!

So far as my understanding goes, the performance of the Committee in respect of specification and sending the materials outside sometimes causes embarrassment to the Government as well as to the business community. If with all these defects, the Bill only seeks to augment the fund of the Committee and to strengthen those fellows who are at present operating very shamelessly and indiscriminately, this will do more harm than good.

About recruitment and training, etc., so far as my understanding goes, vested interests come into play. Those people who are trained have formed a clique and they are maintaining a chain with the business community and they are not helping at all for the purpose of standardisation of our materials which will fetch a good and standard name all over the world. As it is, there is no Indian standard known to any other country whatsoever. This aspect should also be looked into before only strengthening the monetary side of the organisation, the whole administration of this Committee should be gone into.

With these few words, I think this Bill is not to be opposed.

SHRI S. R. DAMANI (Sholapur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill. As the hon. Minister has rightly said, the aim of the Bill is to control the quality of the products of the textile industry and also have quality control on the plant and machinery manufactured in the country for the textile industry. Therefore, the action taken by the Government in this regard is a very important one.

The textile industry is one of the major industries in the country. It not merely includes the cotton textile industry; it includes nylon, rayon yarn, filament yarn, man-made fibres and wool and silk also.

AN HON. MEMBER: Ready-made garments.

SHRI S. R. DAMANI: Ready- made garments are from cotton and other cloth. The basic thing is that the definition has been extended to include all these items. At present, 95 per cent of the plant and machinery for the manufacture of cotton textiles, silk, wool and, to some extent, rayon and nylon, is being manufactured in the country. The total production of cotton cloth is 4,000 million metres, and the export of the industry is more

[Shri S. R. Damani]

than Rs. 175 crores per annum. The machinery manufacturing industry has met not only the demands of the country but is also exporting to many countries, including such countries as West Germany. As such it is essential that there should be strict quality control on them. Many exporting countries earn a good name only because of quality; if quality is good, people buy those goods. Similarly our country also should come to have a good reputation in respect of plant and machinery manufactured here. In this connection, first I should like to talk about the progress made in the last two decades in plant and machinery manufacture. Some units of this industry have run into idle capacity; they are not getting the required raw material and are not able to run to full capacity. As a result they are not able to meet either the demands of the home market or increase their exports. So the first thing is to supply the right type of raw material to those units so that they could run them to full capacity and also produce quality goods. Government should make it compulsory for the engineering units who manufacture plant and machinery to have their own laboratories to test their products. The buyer should also know what quality raw material had been used in producing these machines. In many cases they use cheap material. So the manufacturers should give the specifications of the raw materials used and other details which are required. According to my experience, the Government laboratories are not equipped with up-to-date equipment for testing. The amount collected should be used to equip Government laboratories with up-to-date equipment so that they could carry out tests properly. While introducing the Bill the hon. Minister said that five big cities have got laboratories. He should open more laboratories in other towns wherever there are powerlooms or small textile units are situated, so that their products could be tested properly at that place. If they are confined to these five big cities, what happens? Units in small towns have to wait for months before the inspector comes to inspect and takes samples. It takes a long time. Therefore, in the small towns also where there are small units and a number of powerlooms, the Ministry should establish well-equipped laboratories.

There is great scope for further expansion of the industry. The industry is not in a position to meet the requirements of export and home market. Therefore, the production of plant and machinery should be increased to meet these requirements.

The mills also should be asked to maintain well-equipped laboratories, so that they can test their products. At present we are providing for testing and inspection only for export. I suggest that for the supplies being made for the home market also, there should be compulsory testing so that people get durable quantity cloth.

I disagree with the minister on one point, i.e. power to impose a cess at 1 per cent *ad valorem*. This is too much. Government is already collecting more than Rs. 400 to 500 crores by way of excise duty, import duty etc. For spending a few lakhs of rupees on quality control, why should there be this 1 per cent cess? After all the cost is not going to be very high. This burden will again be passed on to the consumers and I do not want that. The cost is so little and they can meet it out of the huge amount they are collecting by way of excise duty, import duty, etc. The figures have been given in the Financial Memorandum and I do not want to repeat them. I only request the minister to see that there is no extra burden on the consumer because of this 1 per cent *ad valorem* cess.

DR. RANEN SEN (Barasat): Sir, this Bill has a very limited scope. It deals with quality control and

cess. But some of us are expecting another type of Bill nationalising the textile indutry, inview of the fact, that textile goods are not available today in the country and whatever is available for internal consumption is highly priced. I know that some sick textile mills have been taken over by the National Textile Corporation, but the people were demanding the taking over of the entire textile industry by the Government. This is a pressing demand and this step would have been done away with the necessity of bringing this Bill whose main function is quality control and imposing a cess. Since unfortunately the Minister has not chosen to bring forward such a Bill, I have to limit myself within the four corners of the provisions of this Bill.

India is exporting a large amount of textile goods and even textile machinery of very good quality to various countries so much so that there are industrial houses in India which have built their empires outside India, in South East Asia, Africa and the middle East, sometime in collaboration with private individuals and sometimes in collaboration with those Governments. For instance Birlas have got a very big mill in Ethiopia. It is very necessary that there must be proper check and inspection of the textile machinery and textile goods so that the good name which India earned by producing quality products would not be sullied by any person or group of persons or companies.

Shri Biren Dutta referred to our trade with Bangladesh last year. I want to underline the fact that this has very big political repercussions. It must be within the knowledge of Prof. Chattopadhyaya because last year he had been to Dacca to conclude a trade agreement with Bangladesh. Last year the officials of the STC, in collusion with some officials and businessmen in Bengladesh, exported some worthless type of goods which is Bangladesh they called mosquito nets. Who suffered? India suffered the fund of goodwill which it had built in Bengladesh by hard work.

Today the socialist world is one of the big markets for textile goods. I have seen in many socialist countries the shirts and other textile goods manufactured in India being sold in the market. A few years back there were complaints even from socialist countries that rotten things were being sent to them. I do not know whether the Ministry which is directly responsible for the export of cotton textiles has gone into these complaints emanating from Bangladesh and the socialist countries, whether any inquiry has been instituted and if so, with what results.

Coming to raw cotton I would say that there should be a common pool as in the case of coal or steel so that the cotton prices will be uniform throughout the country. This has been the demand of the eastern States of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa for long time in view of the stiff competition from Maharashtra and Gujarat. While we have nothing against those States, there should be fair competition. Now what happens is that the cotton textile industry in those parts are getting raw cotton at reasonable prices whereas we in the eastern part of India have to pay very high prices. I think, U.P. is also getting at a higher price because there is no pooling system. (*Interruption*) My hon. friend, Shri P. M. Mehta, says that the Cotton Corporation of India is not functioning properly. But I am not aware of that thing. He says that. I am only quoting him.

I take this opportunity of bringing to the notice of Dr. Chattopadhyaya who comes from the eastern part of India and who knows that the Legislative Assembly of West Bengal, the Congress party of West Bengal, the Industry Minister of West Bengal

[Dr. Ranen Sen]

along with the Ministers of Bihar and Orissa had made this demand to the Central Government, to his Ministry. . . . .

SHRI N. SREEKANTAN NAIR (Quilon): On a point of order, Sir. Can parochial considerations be raised in the House?

DR. RANEN SEN: India is very big. There are four parts, south, west, east and north. I am not speaking of West Bengal alone. I am quite conscious of that fact.

This is another point that I wanted to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister—it is known to him—that this is exercising the mind of the people of certain areas of the country.

Another important point that I want to raise is this. In clause 5 of the amending Bill, "textiles" and "packing materials" have been mentioned. The term "textiles" has been explained earlier. There is no difficulty to understand what is ment by "textiles". Here, it is stated:

> "packing materials used in the packing of textile machinery, for the purposes of export and for internal consumption and affix suitable markets, etc. etc."

I want to understand that.

Since Mr. Damani has raised a question about the price rise, it has been our common experience in the country that even a little bit of increases in taxation, even one pie increase in taxation, provokes an employer or an industrialist to take an opportunity of that one pie increase and raise the price by the rupee, if not more. So, when the cess is levied, what will be the position of textile goods? The term "textiles" means:

> "any fabric or cloth or yarn or garment or any other article made wholly or in part of—
>
> (i) cotton; or
>
> (ii) wool; or
>
> (iii) silk; or
>
> (iv) artificial silk or other fibre, and includes 'fibre';"

This is very pertinent question which arose in my mind when I was going through this amending Bill.

It is known that in the export market, if the price is raised, we will face stiff competition from many other countries. China has also become a competitor. Previously, Japan was a competitor. Now, about the E.E.C., there is a sort of closed shop and we cannot understand from the newspaper reports as to what Dr. Chattopadhyaya has done by meeting the E.E.C. leaders and all that. Besides Japan in the eastern part of the world, China has also become a competitor. Therefore, the price of textile goods exported outside must be competitive. One can understand that. I can realise that. The price will be competitive and it will be lower. But what about the price of cloth, of textile goods of garments for internal consumption? Outside market is big. But a market of 560 million people is a bigger market. The people here are suffering due to high prices of all essential commodities. Textile goods are an essential commodity. Therefore, this point has to be answered by the hon. Minister. As I said earlier, the industrialists take every opportunity to raise the price of any commodity that they produce. This is a very important point to which I want an answer from the hon. Mnister.

Lastly, in this amending Bill, there is section 5E where the Centrel Government has been given some powers to exempt such variety of textiles or such textile machinery as may be specified in the notification from the whole or any part of the duty of excise leviable under section 5A. I do not know why Government, in all Bills, take the power to exempt certain things. It seems a little incongruous.

Therefore, all these points have to be explained. As I have said earlier, there are no objectionable clauses because the idea is very limited, the object is very limited. Therefore, with these words, I would request the hon. Minister to explain these things.

श्री मधु लिमये (बांका) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं ज्यादा समय नहीं लेना चाहता हूं। मंत्री महोदय ने अपने भाषण में यह स्पष्ट नहीं किया कि एक प्रतिशत की लेवी लगाने से कितनी आमदनी हो जायेगी। यदि वे इसका आंकड़ा देते तो सदन को यह जानने में सुविधा होती कि क्या वास्तव में टैक्सटाइल कमेटी का बजट इतना है कि जिसके लिये एक प्रतिशत की लेवी लगाना जरूरी है। मेरी राय में आने वाले 4-5 वर्षों में आधा प्रतिशत की लेवी लगाने से मजे में काम चल जायगा।

श्री रामसिंह भाई वर्मा (इंदौर) : फिर भी बहुत ज्यादा है।

श्री मधु लिमये : इसी लिये मैं आधा प्रतिशत घटाने की बात कर रहा हूं। यह मैं इस लिये कह रहा हूं कि अन्ततोगत्वा इस सेस का बोझ साधारण लोगों पर ही पड़ेगा। जैसा कि हमारे दो मित्रों ने कहा---इस लेवी को लगा कर आप टैक्सटाइल इण्डस्ट्री को फिर एक और मौका दे रहे हैं-दाम बढ़ाने का। आप उन को कोई भी सहूलियत दीजिये, दाम तो वे फिर भी बढ़ायेंगे। आप जूट को ही ले लीजिये-आप ने 18 करोड़ रुपया माफ किया लेकिन उन्होंने 20 परसेंट दाम बढ़ा दिया। आप यह हथियार उनको क्यों दे रहें है?

टैक्सटाइल कमेटी का उद्देश्य यह कि गुणवत्ता सुधरे, निर्यात में मदद मिले इसी दृष्टिकोण से मैं मंत्री महोदय को एक सुझाव देना चाहता हूं आज हमारी टैक्सटाइल इण्डस्ट्री एक ऐसा उद्योग है कि मेरी राय में अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय मन्डियों में उसके लिए स्पर्धा की मात्रा बहुत कम हो गई है हालांकि डा० रानेन सेन ने कहा है—लेकिन हिन्दुस्तान में जो सुविधायें आप को प्राप्त हैं—आप रुई बनाते हैं, मजदूरी कम है, इस लिये आप के पास बहुत बढ़ा मौका है। इतना ही नहीं कृत्रिम धागे पर आधारित टैक्सटाइल इण्डस्ट्री से मैंने हिसाब लगाया है 100 करोड़ रुपये की आमदनी आप को हो सकती है, बशर्तेकि बुद्धिमानी से आप आयात नीति को भी बनायें। मैंने मंत्री महोदय को बहुत पहले लिखा भी था---हमारे यहां कैपरोलैक्टम की कमी है, नाइलोन यार्न की कमी है जिसके कारण दाम बढ़ते जा रहे हैं। क्या आप इस इंडस्ट्री के प्रतिनिधियों को बुला कर कोई ऐसी योजना नहीं बना सकते हैं कि "आप लोगों के लिये जिन चीजों का आयात जरूरी है, उन को हम मंगवाने के लिये तैयार हैं, बशर्तेकि आप जो पैदावार बढ़ेगी सारी निर्यात करने के लिए तैयार हो जांय" कैप्रोलैक्टम है, नायलोन है, पोलिस्टर यार्न है, इसी तरह से डा० टी० एम० पोलिस्टर धागे के लिये रा मैटीरियल लगता है---इस के बारे में मंत्री महोदय सोचें।

अन्त में मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि सूत के दाम नियन्त्रण का आप ने जो प्रोग्राम किया, उसका क्या नतीजा हुआ आपको पता है। मैंने तामिल नाडू के बारे में सुना है—वहां बिजली का जो कट किया गया, उस में तामिल नाडू की सरकार को जो समानता का व्यवहार करना चाहिए था वह नहीं किया। और कुछ

[श्री मधु लिमये]

मिल वालों के लिए उन्होंने पावर कट ज्यादा कर दी तथा कुछ मिल वालों के लिए कम कर दी इस तरह की शिकायतें आई हैं। अर्सा हुआ मैंने लिखा था कि इसकी जांच करिये पिछले तीन सालों में एवरेज कंजम्पशन उसके आधार पर कोटा निर्धारित होना चाहिये।

उसी तरह से तमिलनाड की हाईकोर्ट ने जब आदेश दिया कि काटन यार्न कन्ट्रोल आर्डर स्थगित रखा जायेगा तो दूसरे राज्यो के टेक्सटाइल मिल वालों ने आल मनी लेना शुरू कर दिया जिसकी पुष्टि इन्होंने स्वंय अपने जवाब में दी है। तो क्या इन्होंने इसकी जांच पूरी की है? क्या वित्त मंत्रालय ने भी इनको इस मामले में कोई सहयोग दिया है? हम सभी चाहते हैं कि निर्यात बढ़े, पैदावार बढ़े लेकिन साथ साथ जो साधारण ग्राहक और उपभोक्ता हैं उनके हितों का भी मंत्री महोदय को खयाल रखना चाहिए। एक परसेन्ट का जो यह अधिकार ले रहे हैं उसके बारे में इस विधेयक के वास्ते वे सेलेक्ट कमेटी बनाएं क्योंकि मुझे डर है कि एक परसेन्ट टैक्स लगाकर यह अपनी आमदनी बढ़ाना चाहते हैं और इस पैसा का इस्तेमाल करना चाहते हैं तो वहां पर आप आंकडे दीजियेगा यह जो अप्रत्यक्ष ढंग से टैक्स में वृद्धि करना चाहते हैं उसके बारे में।

श्री राम सिंह भाई वर्मा (इन्दौर): माननीय कामर्स मिनिस्टर साहब यहां पर जो अमेण्डमेन्ट बिल रखा है उसके सम्बन्ध में मैं कुछ निवेदन करना चाहता हूं। यह कोई मामूली बिल नहीं है। हमारी भाषा में कामर्स मिनिस्टर को बनिया मिनिस्टर कहते हैं। इस बिल के अन्दर सारी बनियागिरी भरी हुई है। बनिया गरीबों को तोंल में मारते हैं, मोल में मारते हैं, बोल में मारते हैं——चौतरफा इनकी मार है। मैं कामर्स मिनिस्टर साहब से जानना चाहता हूं कि इस बिल का मकसद क्या है? जो अधिकार आप चाहते हैं वह टेक्सटाइल कमिश्नर के पास पहले से ही मौजूद हैं। लेकिन मैं मानता हूं कि पार्लियामेट से इस बिल के द्वारा एक तो टेक्सटाइल की कीमतें बढ़ाने का आप अधिकार चाहते हैं और टेक्सटाइल कमिश्नर के विभाग को ज्यादा खुली लूट करने का मौका देना चाहते हैं। यह दो बातें इस बिल से मालूम होती हैं। आपने जो उद्देश्य बताये हैं इसमें, एक तो यह कहा है कि टेक्सटाइल का विकास, उत्पादन वृद्धि, निर्यात वृद्धि और आगे कहा है कि निर्यात और घरू उपयोग के माल पर स्टैंडर्ड क्वालिटी मार्क निर्धारित करना और इसके लिए वन परसेन्ट ड्यूटी लगायेंगे। तो घरू उपयोग में कितना आता है पहले उसको ठहरा लीजिए कि हमारे देश में कपडे की खपत कितनी है। यहां पर लोगों को कपड़ा मिलता नहीं है। पिछले वर्षों में जो 15.10 मीटर प्रति व्यक्ति कपड़ा मिलता था वह अब घट कर 12.69 मीटर ही रह गया है यानी यहां पर कपड़े की कमी है। कपड़ा तो सरप्लस नहीं है और आजकल निर्यात की इतनी मांग और होड़ है कि सारे कायदे कानून, फैक्ट्री एक्ट आदि अलग रख कर ओवर टाइम, संडे वर्किंग, रेस्ट इन्टर्वल नहीं देना और तीनों शिफ्टें बराबर चलाने के प्रयत्न रहते हैं। यानी निर्यात की खूब मांग है। इसका मतलब है कि सेन्ट परसेन्ट टक्सटाइल का जो उत्पादन है उसकी कीमत पर एक परसेन्ट उपकर लगायेंगे तो मैं समझता हूं इस रकम का टोटल 8 करोड़

के करीब पहुंचेगा । अभी मेरे साथी श्री मधु लिमये मिनिस्टर साहब से पूछ रहे थे, उनसे क्या पूछते हैं, मेरे से पूछिये । मैं बताता हूं चार अरब मीटर कपड़ा काटन टेक्सटाइल का तैयार होता है अगर वह कम से कम एक रुपये की कीमत से बिकता है तो एक परसेन्ट से चार करोड़ तो वही हो गए । फिर इधर ऊनी कपड़ा, नायलोन, रेशमी, कृत्रिम, तंतु एवं टेक्सटाइल मशीनरी चार अरब की कीमत की इस तरह से 8 करोड़ से अधिक उपकर की राशि होती है । और जो खर्चा बताया है वह दो लाख के करीब आता है । एक्सपोर्ट का जो कपड़ा होता है, उसकी टेक्सटाइल डिपार्टमेंट के लोग अभी भी जांच करने के लिए जाते हैं, लेकिन वे जांच किए बिना प्रमाणित कर देते हैं । मिनिस्टर साहब थोड़े ही वहां देखते हैं पार्लियामेन्ट के मेम्बर थोड़े ही वहां जाते हैं, जो वहां पर जाते हैं उनकी जेब मिल मालिकों ने गरम की कि उसने स्टैंडर्ड क्वालिटी ठहरा दी । मैंने विदेशों में हमारे माल की शिकायत करते सुना है और कितना ही माल रिजेक्ट हो कर वापिस आया वह देखा है ।

देश की खपत के लिए मैंने कन्ट्रोल के दिनों में भी देखा है कि टेक्सटाइल डिपार्टमेन्ट को यह अधिकार था कि नेपोत, काउण्ट रीड और पीक की जांच करें रजिस्टर मेनटेन किया जाता रहा है और उसमें लिखा है कि 40 रीड और 40 पीक 18 कांउन्ट का यह कपड़ा है और उस पर टेक्सटाइल कमिश्नर डिपार्टमेन्ट के इन्सपेक्टरों के हस्ताक्षर हैं । लेकिन होता क्या है ? मैनेजमेन्ट सुपरवाइजर को आर्डर दिया जाता है कि यह जो रीड है रजिस्टर और चिट्ठी में 40 का लिखो और 36 का डालो । पीक का भी चक्कर 40 का लिखो और 36 का डालो । स्टैंडर्ड कपड़ा 40 रीड और पीक का 36 में बने, मेरे कहने का मतलब है कि इस प्रकार एक तरफ तो कपड़े का भाव 10 प्रतिशत ज्यादा लेना और 10 परसेंट सूत की चोरी भी करना । सूत पर कन्ट्रोल इसलिए वह ब्लैक में बेचना । मिनिस्टर साहब इन बातों को नहीं जानते हैं । टेक्सटाइल डिपार्टमेन्ट उन्हें इन बातों को नहीं बतायेगा । हमारे जैसा आदमी ही उन्हें यह बतायेगा जो कि रोज इसको देखता है ।

15 hrs.

मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि आज कपड़ा उद्योग की हालत क्या है ? आज कपड़े का भाव कितना बढ़ रहा है वह क्यों बढ़ रहा है ? हमारे पास यह फीगर्स हैं । आपने जो विकास की बात कही तो विकास काफी हुआ है । विकास के लिए कितने सुझाव हैं, आप 1951 की रिपोर्ट पढ़ लीजिए । सारी टेक्सटाइल इंडस्ट्री को बदलने के लिए उसमें सुझाव दिए हैं । 1960 की, टेक्सटाइल इनक्वायरी कमेटी की रिपोर्ट पढ़िये जिस से इस उद्योग के मिसमैनेजमेंट का पता लगेगा कि इस इंडस्ट्री की हालत क्या है ? सवा सौ वर्ष इस टेक्सटाइल इंडस्ट्री को हो गए लेकिन इसमें की लूट बन्द नहीं हुई । 1943 में इसने बेशुमार प्राफिट किया, 1948 में जितना इसने प्राफिट किया उतना कभी नहीं

[श्री राम सिंह भाई वर्मा]

किया और आज 1972-73 में इसने अच्छा मुनाफा किया है इतना प्राफिट हो रहा है लेकिन गरीबों की लूट मची है। इसका विकास नहीं हुआ हो, ऐसी बात नहीं है। 1951 में 378 मिलें थीं और आज 684 मिल हैं। 1951 में 1 करोड़ 9 लाख लिं ल्स थ वह आज 1 करोड़ 83 लाख हैं लेकिन यह सब होने के बावजूद भी 1956 में जो 4 अरब 85 करोड़ मीटर कपड़ा बनता था वह 1971 में 3 अरब 95 करोड़ क्यों रह गया? यह प्रोडक्शन क्यों घटा? आपके स्पिण्डल बढ़े हैं, लूम्स बढ़े हैं लेकिन वर्कर्स कम हुए हैं और प्रोडक्शन घटा है। दूसरी तरफ कपड़े के भाव बढ़े हैं। यदि यह कहा जाये कि हमारे काउन्ट रीड पिक्स में फ़र्क हुआ तो काउन्ट रीड और पीक में कोई फर्क नहीं हुआ है। हमारे जो काउन्ट हैं वह वर्षों से 28-29 के करीब रहा है और आज भी इसी के करीब काउन्ट चल रहा है। इसके साथ ही हम दूसरी बातें भी देखें। अभी फिलहाल ही देखें कि कपड़े के भाव इतने ज्यादा क्यों हैं। आम काटन का भाव देखें। मिनिस्ट्री ने कभी इस तरफ ध्यान नहीं दिया है। 1961-62 को 100 मान लेते। 1969 में काटन के भाव का जो इन्डैक्स है वह है 165.5 और 1971 में 234.5 हो गया। आप देखें कि 1971 में 234.5 इन्डैक्स होता है लेकिन 1972 में घट कर 177.9 हो गया। कहने का मतलब है कि काटन का भाव गिरा है लेकिन साथ ही कपड़े का भाव आप देखें कपड़े का भाव बढ़े हुए काटन के भाव पर निर्भर था। किन्तु काटन का भाव 1972 में घट कर, इंडैक्स 234.5 घट कर 177.9 हो गया। किन्तु कपड़े का भाव घटा नहीं, बढ़ता ही गया। जब काटन का इंडैक्स 234.5 था कपड़े का 153.9 किन्तु जब काटन का इंडैक्स घट कर 177.9 हुआ कपड़े का भाव घटने के बजाय बढ़ कर 161.3 हो गया। और काटन का भाव गिर रहा है। मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि इस का क्या कारण है। बार बार यहां कहा जाता है कि आप की काटन का भाव गिर रहा है और कपड़े का भाव बढ़ रहा है किन्तु कोई ध्यान नहीं देता। हमारा सूत का उत्पादन अधिक होते हुए भी आज हैंडलूम वाले और पावरलेम वाले बेचारे ऊंचे हाथ कर के खड़े हुए हैं क्योंकि उन को सूत नहीं मिल रहा है। सूत के भाव को 1970 के अन्दर इंडैक्स 162.2 था, 1971 में 203.2 हो गया और 1972 के अन्दर 206.2 हो गया। जनवरी, 1973 के अन्दर 208.5 हो गया। मेरी समझ में नहीं आता कि हम यहां पार्लियामेंट के अन्दर हमेशा यह खुलासा करते हैं कि व्यापारी लोग ब्लैक करते हैं, काला धन कमा रहे हैं, लेकिन टैक्सटाइल कमिश्नर के पास इस बात की पूरी जानकारी होती है कि रोजाना कितना प्रोडक्शन होता है। और इस के अलावा जो वितरण होता है उस की भी टक्सटाइल कमिश्नर को जानकारी देनी होती है। फिर यह सारी गड़बड़ क्यों हो रही है? मैं अपने बनिया मिनिस्टर साहब से कहना चाहता हूं कि वह इस बात पर विचार करेंगे।

मेरे साथी ने कहा बलेंस शीट आप बनाते हैं। उस की चीर फाड़ यहां मुझे करनी पड़ती है। 1972 की जो बलेंसशीट्स निकली हैं, बम्बई, अहमदाबाद कानपुर की, जो कि अक्तूबर तक निकल चुकी हैं, उन को अगर देखा जाये तो पायेंगे कि कितना मिसमनेजमेंट है। सारा का सारा जो पुराना कचरा है वह 1972 को ब्लैकशीट के अन्दर भर दिया गया है। कल के अखबार में पढ़ा, खुद मैंने दुकान पर जा कर नोट किया कपड़ा रिजेक्ट हो कर आया है जो ऐक्सपोर्ट किया गया। और वह कपड़ा बाजार में गया है। लिखा हुआ है कपड़े के ऊपर 10 मीटर जब कि घड़ी है 10 यार्ड। इस के हिसाब से लाखों गाठें बाजार में गयी होंगी। देहाती आदमी इन बातों को क्या जानें आप स्टेन्डर्ड कपड़े की बात करते हैं, आप ऐक्सपोर्ट करेंगे, वहां व्यापारी व्यापारी से खरीदता है, लेकिन एक देहाती नहीं समझता है कि यह किस काउन्ट का कपड़ा है, कितनी रीड का है और कितनी पीक का कपड़ा है।

टेक्सटाइल विभाग कितना मिसमेंनेज-मेंट करता है इस का कोई हिसाब नहीं। पसे कमाता है और भाव बढ़ाता है। 1960 के अन्दर एक टेक्सटाइल इनक्वायरी कमैटी बनी थी, जिस के जोशी जी अध्यक्ष थे, और उस में मुझे बुलाया गया था।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: These are important points but I think you are going a little too far afield.

श्री राम सिंह भाई वर्मा : मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि टक्सटाइल मिल का एक मैने-जर है जो पमेंन्ट करने के लिये बैंक से पैसे लेने गया। बैंक से आते हैं, उन के साथ चौकीदार है, थैली है नोटों की, लेकिन नोटों के स्थान पर बराबर कागज के कटे हुए टुकड़े निकलने हैं। जाहिर है यह बैंक में नहीं हो सकता। लेकिन उस मैनेजर के ऊपर कोई ऐक्शन नहीं लिया गया। इस तरह की गड़बड़ कराई जाती है। टैक्सटाइल उद्योग में माननीय दामानी जी जैसे लोग हैं, जिन के रसोइये को वेलफेयर अफसर बनाया जाता है। शाक भाजी खरीदने वाले को स्टोर परचेज करने के लिये बाजार मास्टर बनाया जाता है। मैं मंत्री जी से निवेदन करूंगा कि टक्सटाइल के बारे में आप मरी सेवा लीजिये, मैं बताऊंगा कि किस तरह से मिसमैनेजमेंट होता है। आज भी एक पैसा लगाये बिना प्रोडक्शन बढ़ाया जा सकता है। दो लूम्स चलते हैं, एक वर्कर दो लूम चलाता है उस की ऐफीशियेंसी 65 है और जो 4 लूम्स चलाता है उस की एफीशियेंसी 82 है। जिस के ऊपर वर्क लोड ज्यादा है उस की ऐफी-शियसी बहुत ज्यादा है और .....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: That is a fair offer which the Minister must, I think, accept. There should be another occasion for a wider discussion like this.

श्री राम सिंह भाई वर्मा : जिस के ऊपर वक लोड कम है उस की एफीशियेंसी बहुत कम है। उस की जवाबदारी मेरे

[श्री रामसिंह भाई वर्मा]

साथियों को है। बस मुझे इतना ही नि दन करना है।

SHRI DHAMANKAR (Bhiwandi): I rise to support this Bill but while doing so, I would point out certain discrepancies in it. A cess is proposed to be levied on textile machinery as well as on textile yarn and cloth and fibre. But the textile machinery manufacturers have adopted new methods to circumvent this. The factory which has been registered as a textile machinery manufacturing company ceases to manufacture textile machinery. Instead various other factories are set up where different parts are manufactured and assembled in a third factory. This way tax is avoided all the while.

Not only that. Even in regard to cloth and yarn, all these tactics are adopted. When control was imposed on yarn, when 60 counts yarn was to be sold in the bazar at a certain rate fixed by the Commerce Ministry, the millowners adopted a new tactic, namely to produce 56, 58 and other counts and evade the limitation imposed by Government and make huge profits.

It is all right that Government has decided to give training to the staff for standardisation and quality control But that is not enough. What has to be seen is whether it is implemented or not. Even now when the Textile Committee is there and the staff are there, a large number of bales of cloth are rejected in foreign countries because they are sub-standard. This happens because there is collusion between the mill managements and the inspecting staff kept there for inspection of cloth.

Now they say that they will levy this cess and spend the amount on giving training to the staff. Along with this, training will also be given to other persons but some fees will be charged from them. I fail to understand why fees should be charged for this training because these people are going to augment your staff, because when you have this Bill passed and the Act comes into force, you will need staff for the inspection work. If you allow these people to get the training along with the staff, I think that will help the Ministry. Along with the machinery and cloth and yarn, standardisation will have to be strictly enforced. Otherwise, in spite of the Textiles Committee (Amendment) Bill, which has come rather late—because it is now 10 years since 1964—nothing much could be expected, because, so many varieties of cloth have come into vogue and there have been so many changes and the mill magnates manoeuvre to see that different types of cloth are manufactured and sold at a very high price without bringing any duty to the Textiles Committee.

I think when this Bill becomes an Act, the Minister will take proper steps to implement the provisions honestly, and in spite of the training given to the staff, only if they work sincerely, revenue will come to the exchequer. Otherwise, it will go to the pockets of the staff of the department concerned.

With these few words and suggestions, I support the Bill.

डा० लक्ष्मीनारायण पाण्डेय (मंदसौर): मंत्री महोदय ने केवल एक प्रतिशत के सैस के द्वारा लगभग आठ करोड़ के नये टैक्स इस विधेयक के द्वारा लगाने का प्रस्ताव किया है। आठ करोड़ रुपये के टैक्स को हम बड़े सरल ढंग से आंकलित कर सकते हैं। देश में कुल बनने वाला कपड़ा लगभग चौदह सौ करोड़ का है।

उसका आधा यदि पावर लूम और हैंड-लूम्ज में बनता है और उसको निकाल दिया जाए तो सात सो करोड़ रुपये का कपड़ा इस प्रकार का होता है जिस पर सैस आप लगाने जा रहे हैं एक प्रतिशत से इसका सीधा सा अर्थ यह होता है कि सात करोड़ रुपया आप सैस से वसूल करेंगे। इसके अलावा टैक्सटाइल मशीनरी और कम्पोनेंट्स लगभग एक अरब रुपये के बनते हैं। उस आधार पर इन पर टैक्स लगाया जाए एक प्रतिशत तो वह भी एक करोड़ बनता है। इस प्रकार से कुल मिला कर आठ करोड़ का नया टैक्स जनता पर आप लादने जा रहे हैं जिस की किसी भी प्रकार से उचित नहीं कहा जा सकता है। सैस के नाम पर यह सीधा सीधा नया टैक्स है।

मंत्री महोदय ने बताया है कि कमेटी के कार्य विस्तार की दृष्टि से, काम ठीक चले इस दृष्टि से और साथ साथ कमेटी कुछ नये क्षेत्रों के अन्दर जा कर सुधार के काम कर सके इस दृष्टि से नया सैस लगाने जा रहे हैं। लेकिन अब तक का अनुभव यह रहा है कि इस कमेटी ने जो उसके कार्य थे या जो उसकी कार्य प्रणाली थी, जिस प्रकार से उसको काम करना चाहिये था, उसको कभी भी ठीक से नहीं किया फिर चाहे वह देश के अन्दर काम आने वाला कपड़ा हो या विदेशों को निर्यात होने वाला कपड़ा हो या मशीनरी हो कई माननीय सदस्यों ने भी विचार व्यक्त किये हैं इसके बारे में। हमारे यहां से जो कपड़ा बाहर गया उसके बारे में कई शिकायतें प्राप्त हुई और उसका आर्डर कैन्सल हुआ। इस प्रकार के कई उदाहरण दिये जा सकते हैं कि किन किन देशों में आर्डर निरस्त किये हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि किन कारणों से हमारे देश के कपड़े को लेने से उन्होंने इन्कार किया, क्या स्टैंडर्ड उसका ठीक नहीं था, क्या कमेटी ने जा कर जांच उसकी की थी और की थी तो इस प्रकार का गलत कपड़ा बाहर क्यों गया, जांच के बावजूद भी उसको बाहर भेजा क्यों गया? यदि उसका स्टैण्डर्ड ठीक नहीं था तो उसको रोकना था। मैं चाहता हूं कि मंत्री महोदय अपने उत्तर से इसका स्पष्ट संकेत दें कि किस प्रकार से कमेटी ने अपने कर्त्तव्य का पालन किया। वर्मा जी बता रहे थे और उन्होंने एक उदाहरण दिया एक कपड़ा मिल का उन्होंने स्थान का उल्लेख नहीं किया किन्तु मैं बताना चाहता हूं कि वह कपड़ा मिल मध्य प्रदेश की है, ग्वालियर की है। इसके बारे में सूचना नवभारत टाइम्स में छपी है, समाचार इस में छपा है जो कि 12 नवम्बर का है। इसका शीर्षक है कपड़ा मिल द्वारा नाप में धांधली से 60 लाख रुपये का मुनाफा इस में कहा गया है कि ग्वालियर की एक मिल द्वारा कपड़े के थानों और धोतियों पर गज की नाप पर मीटर का निशान लगा कर अनुचित ढंग से 60 लाख रुपये का मुनाफा कमाने का आरोप लगाया है। उन्होंने इस मामले की पूरी तरह जांच कराने और मिल के प्रबन्धकों के विरुद्ध कार्यावाही की मांग

[डा० लक्ष्मी नारायण पाण्डेय]

की है। एक पत्रकार सम्मेलन में श्री सिंहल ने बताया कि इस वर्ष अप्रल माह में जो कंट्रोल का कपड़ा मिल से सप्लाई किया गया उस में प्रति मीटर 8 सें०मी० कपड़ा कम था। इसी तरह कपड़े के एक 20 मीटर के थान को जब नापा गया तो वह 18 मीटर ही निकला। इसी प्रकार गतमाह सहकारी बाजार में एसी ही बात प्रकाश में आई। इसकी रिपोर्ट पुलिस में भी दर्ज कराई गई और टक्सटाइल्ज कमिशन से भी शिकायत की गई।

यह जो समाचार छपा इस पर आज तक टैक्सटाइल कमिश्नर ने किसी प्रकार की मिल के खिलाफ कार्रवाई नहीं की है। इस प्रकार का उसका कार्य चल रहा है। जब इस प्रकार की शिकायत होती हैं तो उन पर कार्रवाई क्यों नहीं की जाती हैं ? टैक्सटाइल कमेटी या टक्सटाइल कमिशनर कौन से कार्य करने के लिए बैठे हुए हैं। आखिर टैक्सटाइल कमेटी करती क्या है ? मैं चाहता हूं कि पूरे प्रकरण की जांच हो।

आपने बताया है कि कमेटी सारा काम देखेगी। आप ने यह भी कहा है कि सैस से प्राप्त आय से कमेटी का काम सुधरेगा और क्वालिटी सुधारने का काम अधिक अच्छा होगा। आपने यह भी कहा है कि प्रिशिपमेंट इंस्पैक्शन होना चाहिये, क्वलिटी का इंस्पैक्शन होना चाहिये, मशीनरी का इन्सपैक्शन होना चाहिये। लेकिन यह सब ठीक होता नहीं है। अभी तक कमेटी पर आप सत्तर लाख या अस्सी लाख खर्च करते थे। इस खर्च को बढ़ा कर आप आठ करोड़ करना चाहते हैं। इसका औचित्य क्या है, यह मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूं। इस प्रकार से जनता पर लगाया गया यह टैक्स क्या उसके ऊपर एक भार साबित नहीं होगा ? आप एक प्रतिशत टैक्स लगाएंगे तो मिल मालिक इसका अनुचित लाभ उठाएंगे, इसकी तुलना में दुगुना या उससे भी अधिक कपड़े के दामों से मुनाफा कमाने की चेष्टा करेंगे। मैं चाहता हूं कि मंत्री महोदय इसके बारे में भी स्पष्टीकरण दें। आखिर इतना अधिक सैस लगाने की आवश्यकता क्यों पड़ी। सत्तर लाख या अस्सी लाख जो खर्चा होता है उसको क्या डेढ़ करोड़ या एक करोड़ या दो करोड़ बढ़ा कर और उतना सैस लगा कर काम नहीं चल सकता था ? क्या तब कमेटी ठीक तरह से काम नहीं कर सकती थी, सुचारू रूप से काम नहीं कर सकती थी ? मैं समझता हूं कि इतना भारी भरकम टैक्स लगाने की आवश्यकता नहीं थी। इसके बारे में आपको स्पष्टीकरण देना चाहिए।

कुल मिला कर देश के अन्दर स्थिति यह है कि कपड़े के उत्पादन में गिरावट भारी मात्रा में आई हैं और दामों में वृद्धि हुई है। ऐसा क्यों हुआ है ? अभी बताया गया कि रुई के दाम उतने नहीं बढ़े जितने कपड़े के बढ़ा दिए गए। रुई के दाम तो पंद्रह प्रतिशत बढ़े लेकिन मिल मालिकों ने कपड़े के दाम 30 से 50 प्रतिशत और कहीं कहीं 80 प्रतिशत तक बढ़ा दिए हैं। एक पये मीटर वाला कपड़ा

बाजार में 1–80 में बिकने लगा है। रुई के दाम पंद्रह प्रतिशत अधिक और कपड़े के 80 प्रतिशत अधिक बढ़े इसको कैसे उचित ठहराया जा सकता है। मंत्री महोदय ने स्वयं एक पत्रकार सम्मेलन में सम्भवतः कलकत्ता में यह हुआ था कहा था कि हम ने इसकी स्वीकृति दी है और इस प्रकार की वृद्धि को उचित ठहराया है। जब कपड़ा मिल मालिक बीस प्रतिशत या उसके अधिक पचास प्रतिशत तक की वृद्धि करते हैं तो क्या इसको उचित कार्य कहा जा सकता है क्या इसके औचित्य को सिद्ध किया जा सकता है ? जब ऐसा होता है तो अन्य उपभोक्ता वस्तुओं के दाम भी बढ़ जाते हैं। जो नियंत्रित दामों वाला कपड़ा है उसके दाम भी बढ़े हैं, दूसरे के भी बढ़े हैं, आम जनता जिस कपड़े को काम में लाती है भारी मात्रा में उसके दाम भी बढ़े हैं। अब नया सैस लगा कर आप जनता के ऊपर और अधिक भार डालने की चेष्ठा कर रहे हैं और मैं समझता हूं कि इसको उचित और न्याय संगत नहीं कहा जा सकता है

कई टेक्साटाइल मिलों को आपने अपने हाथ में लिया है बीमार मिलों के नाम पर उनको अपने हाथ में लिया है। उनमें करोड़ों रुपया आपने व्यय किया है। प्रबंध आप के हाथों में है। उन में से कई मिलों में काम संतोषजनक नहीं चल रहा है। कई मिलों के बारे में शिकायतें प्राप्त हो रही हैं। इस विधेयक का यह विषय नहीं। फिर भी मैं आपका ध्यान इस ओर आकर्षित करना चाहता हूं कि जहां जहां आपने कंट्रोलर नियुक्त किए हैं आप देखें कि वे सही ढंग से काम करें। मैं आपको एक मिसाल देता हूं इन्दौर की खण्डेलवाल कम्पनी ने शिकायत की है कि मालवा मिल के कंट्रोलर ने उस आफर को ठुकरा दिया जिस में 7–61 पर ब्लैंकेट लेने की आफर थी और उन्होंने 7–21 पर उसको बेचा। इस प्रकार से मिल मिला कर घोटाला किया। ये जो घोटाले हैं इनकी ओर टैक्सटाइल कमिश्नर को और आपको देखना चाहिये। मैं चाहता हूं कि इन्दौर के युनाइटेड मिल के इस प्रकरण की जांच आप करवाएं। अन्त में मेरा निवेदन है और मैं समझता हूं कि इतना ज्यादा सैस लगा कर आप जनता को भारी बोझ से दबा रहे हैं यह उचित नहीं है। चाहे टैक्सटाइल कमेटी हो या कारपोरेशन हो या टैक्सलाइल कमिशन हो उसका काम संतोषजनक नहीं है। उसको भी सुधारने की आवश्यकता है और मैं आशा करता हूं कि आप उधर ध्यान देंगे क्योंकि आज टैक्सटाइल उद्योग की हालत संतोषजनक नहीं है और सुधार हेतु पूरा विचार आवश्यक है।

श्री मूलचन्द डागा (पाली): इस बिल की बाबत मझे दो तीन बात कहनी हैं। आपने बताया है कि इतने फंड्ज़ आप के पास हैं और यह भी आपने बताया कि है इतने फंड की आपको और जरूरत पैदा हुई है। जिस बिल को आप एमेंड करने जा रहे हैं, टैक्सटाइल कमेटी बिल 1963 उसका जो सैक्शन 6 है वह कहता है :

"For the purpose of enabling the committee to discharge its functions under this Act, the Central Government may after appropriations made by Parliament by law in this connection pay to the committee each financial year such sums of money as the Government consider necessary as grant or loan or..."

[श्री मूल चन्द डागा:]

मैं आपसे पूछना चाहता हूं कि कितनी बार आप पार्लियामेंट के सामने आए हैं इस बात को लेकर कि आपको इतनी नई लैबोरेटरीज एस्टैबलिश करनी हैं और उनको लगाने के लिए आपको इतने खर्चे की जरूरत होगी, इतना पया आपको चाहिये होगा । आज आप आठ करोड़ का सैस लगाने जा रहे हैं । जो आपने इंस्पेक्टर्ज रखे हैं क्या उनके काम को भी आपने कभी देखा है और क्या कभी किसी को ससपेंड किया है, क्या कभी किसी के खिलाफ कोई एकशन लिया है । 1963 के बाद यानी दस साल के बाद आपको उस बिल को एमेंड करने की जरूरत महसूस हुई है और एमेंडमेंट्स ले कर आप आए हैं कि इतना रुपया आपको चाहिये । आप लेबोरेटरीज एस्टैबलिश करना चाहते हैं । जो बड़े बड़े सेठ हैं और जिन्होंने लां रुपया टैक्सटाइल इंडस्ट्री से कमाया है क्या वे अपनी लेबोरेटरीज खुद नहीं एस्टैबलिश कर सकते हैं ? क्या नहीं वे स्वयं इसको करते हैं ? ये बिड़ला और टाटा आदि बड़े बड़े लोग अपनी लैबोरेटरीज स्थापित क्यों नहीं करते हैं ? पावरलूम इंडस्ट्री में जो लैबोरेटरीज जरूर एस्टाब्लिश करनी चाहिए । आखिर सरकार लैबोरेटरीज के नाम पर कितने करोड़ रुपया लोगों से इकट्ठा करना चाहतीहै ? 1971 में सरकार ने कास्ट प्राइस रिलेशनशिप का अध्ययन करने के लिए एक ब्यूरो आफ़ इंडस्ट्रियल कास्ट्स एंड प्राइसिज मुकर्रर किया था । उस ब्यूरो ने 1973 में रिपोर्ट दी है । मैं यह चाहता हूं कि उस रिपोर्ट में क्या कहा गया है और क्या उस रिपोर्ट को इम्प्लीमेंट किया गया है या नहीं । आज प्राइसिज कितनी बढ़ गई हैं । अब सरकार कहती है कि हम नई मशीनें लगाना चाहते हैं । सवाल यह है कि नई मशीनें लगाने से कितने मजदूरों को काम से हटा दिया जाता है ।

सरकार ने एक कमेटी बनाई, जिस के चेयरमैन को खुद सैंट्रल गवर्नमेंट एपायंट करती है । इस स्थिति में सरकार को एक ट्रिब्यूनल एपायंट करने की क्या आवश्यकता पड़ी ? आखिर सरकार इस पर एकस्ट्रा एक्सपेंडीचर क्यों करना चाहती है ? वह कमेटी फंक्शन कर रही है और उस को सब पावर्ज हासिल है । तब क्लाज 5बी के द्वारा एक ट्रिब्यूनल एपायंट करने का क्या परपज है ? इस विधेयक में कहा गया है कि अपील सुनने के लिए । इसमें कहा गया है :

"In discharging the functions under this section, the Tribunal may, subject to any rules that may be made in this behalf, follow such procedure as it thinks fit."

अर्थात् ट्रिब्यूनल वह प्रोसीजर अपनायेगा, जिस को वह उचित समझे । वह सिविल प्रोसीजर कोड के मुताबिक काम करो न करे ? क्या वह आरबिट्रेरिली अपने डिसिजन देगा ?

इस के बाद कहा गया है :

"The Tribunal shall have all the powers of a civil court while trying a suit..."

What is that suit? It is only appeal which you are providing under section 5.

एक्ट में कहा गया है :

The Committee will consist of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Joint Secretary and other members.

कमेटी जो डिसिज़न देगी, उस को चैलेंज कौन करेगा? एग्रीब्ड पर्सन कौन होगा? इस विधेयक में कहा गया है कि ट्रिब्यूनल लोगों को सम्मन कर सकेगा, डाकुमेंट मांग सकेगा और एविडेंस ले सकेगा। मैं समझ नहीं पाया हूं कि सरकार ट्रिब्यूनल को क्यों एपायंट कर रही है और खर्चा क्यों बढ़ा रही है।

इस में कहा गया है कि गवर्नमेंट समय समय पर कमेटी को डायरेक्शन देगी। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि 1963 के बाद गवर्नमेंट ने कमेटी को क्या डायरेक्शन दिए हैं। (व्यवधान) हमारे कम्युनिस्ट सदस्यों ने तो सिर्फ़ एक ही बात सीखी है कि टैक्स्टाइल इंडस्ट्री का नैशनलाइज़ेशन कर दो, हर चीज का नैशनलाइज़ेशन कर दो।

Dr. Ranen Sen knows only one word. He has not learnt anything more.

DR. RANEN SEN: You have not learnt even that.

श्री मूल चन्द डागा: बिल में एमेंडमेंट लाते समय मंत्री महोदय को बताना चाहिए कि उस का परपज़ क्या है।

SHRI B. R. SHUKLA (Bahraich): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I do not feel very much confident to speak on the merits of this Bill and the reasons why this has been brought before this House. Therefore, I would like to confine myself to certain formal legal aspects of the Bill.

Clause 5(b) provides for the constitution of the Tribunal. Clause 5(c) defines the procedre for hearing the appeals which would be preferred against the decisions of the Committee. Clause 5(c) is a self-contained provision regarding the procedure, regarding limitation and condonation of the limitation. Then, sub-clause (6) of 5(c) provides that the functions of the Tribunal shall be subject to any rules that may be made in this behalf and till then it shall follow such procedure as it thinks fit. So, the procedure may be prescribed under the rules. But if the procedure is not prescribed under the rule-making power, then the Tribunal shall have the option or liberty to decide the matter as it thinks fit. My submission is that subordinate legislation under the delegation of legislative power is well-known to modern jurisprudence. But excessive delegation of legislative function to a person or a tribunal is certainly unconstitutional. So, it comes to this that in case no rules are framed under sub-section (6) then the Tribunal can decide the case as it thinks fit. It means that this House of Parliament, is abdicating its power of legislative functioning to a Tribunal but this is unconstitutional. This introduces an element of uncertainty so far as the legal aspect of the matter is concerned.

Sub-clause (7) says that the Tribunal shall have the power of a civil court trying a suit under the Civil Procedure Code. I understand this does not mean that it will function as a trial court; it will simply assume the power which court of law has got under the Civil Procedure Code in trying a suit.

It means that there are three types of procedure contemplated for the functioning of the Tribunal, namely, the rules framed thereunder, the provisions contained in clause 5(c) and the arbitrary procedure which the Tribunal can follow if it thinks fit. My submission is that this is not a

[Shri B. R. Shukla]

very harmonious way of making legislative provision. It appears anomalous, self-contradictory and irrelevant. Therefore, my submission is that suitable amendment be made that in disposing of an appeal under clause 5(c), the Civil Procedure Code so far as it is not repugnant to the provisions of this Bill shall be applicable.

*SHRI E. R. KRISHNAN (Salem): Hon. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to say a few words on behalf of my party, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, on The Textiles Committee (Amendment), Bill, 1973 which has been moved by the hon. Minister of Commerce.

Sir, the Textiles Committee has been set up under the Textiles Committee Act, 1963 for securing standard qualities of textiles for internal as well as external marketing and manufacture and use of standard type of textile machinery. This Committee is authorised under Section 12 of the Act to levy such fees as may be prescribed by rules for the inspection and examination of textiles and textile machinery and for any other service which the Committee may render to the manufacturers of textiles and textile machinery. On account of the ever-expanding activities of the Committee it has become necessary to take steps to augment the resources of the Textiles Committee. This amending Bill provides for the levy of a cess as a duty of excise on all textiles and textile machinery at such rate not exceeding one per cent *ad valorem*. One redeeming and welcoming feature of this amending Bill is that the handloom and powerloom textiles have been exempted from this additional levy. I wholeheartedly welcome the exemption of textiles manufactured by handloom and powerloom industries.

Sir, this Committee has been entrusted with the onerous task of ensuring manufacture and use of standard of textile machinery. I wonder whether the Committee has so far been able to pay proper attention to the question of inspection of textile machinery. You must be aware of the fact that in almost all the textile mills the machinery are worn-out and outdated. You cannot expect that standard quality cloth can be produced from such worn-out and outdated textile machinery.

Besides this, during 1970-71 Rs. 7.12 crores worth of textile machinery and spare parts and in 1971-72 Rs. 6.05 crores worth of textile machinery and spare parts were exported from our country. I would like to know whether the Textile Committee could inspect all the machinery and spare parts that were exported in any year. I get this genuine doubt because on page 124 of the Annual Report of the Ministry of Commerce, 1972-73, you will find that only 18 vital components alone had been inspected by the Textile Committee.

On this very same page, it is also mentioned that the textile machinery were inspected by this Committee. There is no mention as to how many machinery were inspected, what were the observations of the Committee in regard to the textile machinery, what were the suggestions made by the Committee for repairing and for replacing and whether these observations and suggestions of the Committee were implemented by the mill-owners. It is very necessary that the activities of the Textile Committee should be indicated in an exclusive Appendix to the Annual Report of the Ministry of Commerce. If it is found that some more money is required for inspecting and examining all the textile machinery in the country, I am sure that this House will unreservedly and unhesitatingly give its approval for even additional levy.

*The original speech was delivered in Tamil.

I would like to point out that none in this House can dispute the necessity for producing standard qualities of cloth both for export and for internal consumption. It must be pointed out here that unless raw cotton, especially superior varieties of cotton, in sufficient quantities at moderate price is supplied to the textile industry, the price of yarn will continue to soar higher and higher. We are importing annually superier variety of cotton required by the handloom and power-loom industry from Egypt, Sudan and other African countries to the tune of Rs. 100 crores. Even though it is meant for handloom industry, there is the import duty of 40 per cent on raw cotton. Sir, 40 per cent import duty on raw cotton is unreasonably high and this sky-rockets the price of yarn. I demand that the import duty of 40 per cent on raw cotton should be repealed forthwith. While the price of yarn has been controlled, it is regrettable that there is no control on the distribution of yarn. This comes handy to the mill-owners. They prepare the bills for the supply of yarn at controlled rate and take the excess money under the table. The fact that there is no control on the distribution of yarn has enabled the mill-owners to appropriate huge profits from the sale of yarn. I would urge upon the hon. Minister of Commerce that the distribution of yarn should be controlled at once and the State Governments should be entrusted with the duty of distributing the yarn to the handloom weavers. When the indigenous demand for yarn remains unfulfilled, there is no meaning in exporting the yarn. I suggest that the export of yarn should be banned. In September this year, the Chairman of the National Textile Corporation Shri Tripathi expressed his dissatisfaction about the production and distribution of yarn as also the fixation of the price of yarn without fixing the price of raw cotton. He was of the view that a ceiling should be fixed on the selling price of raw cotton. Before he tendered his resignation, he expressed his views in public. I suggest that the Ministry of Commerce should give serious consideration to the views expressed by the former Chairman of the National Textiles Corporation.

Coming to the question of art silk yarn, rayon yarn, nylon yarn etc. I wish to say that the situation in the country has assumed alarming proportions. In Tamil Nadu alone 1.5 lakhs of handloom weavers are dependent on the art silk yarn for their livelihood. The price as fixed by the Government for 454 grams of art silk yarn is Rs. 6.70 and in the open market it is sold at Rs. 27.00. The lakhs of hondloom weavers engaged in this industry are facing untold miseries on account of the high price prevailing in the open market. All the art silk yarn produced in the country are allotted through the Central Committee in Bombay. This Central Committee has been constituted by the Central Government. 20 per cent of the production is allotted to the exporters of art silk textiles. Out of the remaining 80 per cent, 40 per cent is allotted through the regional committees of this Central Committee and 40 per cent is allotted to the open market. I have no hesitation in saying that these regional committees are bogus committees. It is common knowledge that the actual handloom weavers are not getting their requirement. Only the intermediaries are able to derive maximum financial advantage from this procedure. In 1969 the Government of India directed the Tariff Commission to go into the cost structure of nylon yarn, rayon yarn, staple fibre etc. and also to suggest methods for fair distribution of the yarn at reasonable prices. The Tariff Commission submitted its report in December, 1970. It is unfortunate that the Government have not implemented the recommendations and suggestions contained in this Report. Here, I would also point out that the

[Shri E. R. Krishnan]

Central Committee's voluntary agreement scheme is to end in December this year. I am strongly of the view that on no account this scheme or the Central Committee should be given fresh lease of life.

I would like to say here that all the powers of distribution of art silk yarn, nylon yarn, staple fibre etc. are in the hands of the Central Government.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This is a much broader question.

SHRI E. R. KRISHNAN: Sir, this is very important so far as my constituency is concerned. When the Central Government have all the powers of distribution of art silk yarn, the members of the Congress Party in Tamil Nadu under the leadership of Shri A. Balasubramaniam, M.L.A. have given notice of agitation on November 16, in this matter to the State Government of Tamil Nadu, which is helpless so far as the issues for agitation are concerned. The Tamil Nadu Government have repeatedly and frequently brought to the notice of the Central Government that the situation is becoming grave and early steps should be taken in this matter. The State Government have also suggested the abolition of the regional committee and the distribution of art silk yarn to genuine handloom weavers should be entrusted to the State Government. But the plea of the State Government has not yet been heeded to by the Central Government. It is ludicrous that the members of the Congress Party in Tamil Nadu should blame the State Government, when all the powers of distribution are in the hands of the Central Government.

The agitators of the Congress Party in Tamil Nadu are asking for timely and adequate supply of art silk yarn at fair price to the genuine handloom weavers engaged in this industry. They want the abolition of the regional committee. They are demanding that the procurement and distribution of art silk yarn should be done by the State Government. I want to know whether the Central Government of the very same Congress Party will concede the demands of their partymen in Tamil Nadu.

Before I conclude, I would urge upon the hon. Minister of Commerce that the suggestions made by the Tamil Nadu Government should be accepted by the Central Government and the needful done without any further loss of time.

SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH (Inner Manipur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I support and welcome this Bill. This is a very welcome measure. It is very encouraging that the Government has come to realise the need for standardisation and a strict control in respect of quality of textiles and textile machinery not only for export but also for the internal market. I am absolutely in agreement with the views expressed by my hon. friends, Shri Damani and Shri Ramsingh Bhai Verma. I do not like to repeat them. I would like to confine my observations to the aspect of the textile industry covered by khadi and handloom, representing as I do a State of weavers. As you know, Sir, my State, the State of Manipur, is known as either a State of dances or a State of weavers. Both are correct. In my own house, for your information, I am running three handlooms and one waist loom. This is a very respectable profession there. The aspect of quality control for khadi and business in the internal market as business in the internal market as well as in the export market remain something to be attended to.

15.54 hrs.

[SHRI K. N. TIWARY *in the Chair*]

Everybody must have heard of the massive rush for khadi cloth these days. Only today, in the newspapers, we have seen that the Khadi Gramodhyog, Delhi, has announced that they have been able to sell in the course of the last one month more than Rs. 30 lakhs worth of cloth. On the last day of the business, according to the announcement, more than Rs. 3 lakhs worth of cloth were sold. My congratulations to this sector. This is an ample indication that khadi is becoming more and more popular. This is about the internal market. What about the external market? In the international market also khadi is becoming more and more popular. Here, khadi represents our ancient weaving talents, design talents and the taste for colour and so many other aspects attached to it. Whether khadi and handloom bring us sufficient amount of foreign exchange or not is not very important in my view. I do not like to minimise the importance of textile mills. But, now the sector represented by khadi and handloom needs to be attended to with much more emphasis than it is done to-day. What do we find in this sector? We lack co-ordination, we lack control over quality and what I would like to suggest particularly for khadi and handloom is this. I do not like to mention particular regions. There are southern as also the eastern regions where handloom is very popular and khadi, of course, is more or less a matter of a very general and national interest. Taking all these aspects in view, I would like to suggest that the machinery to control and also to regulate the quality and marketing facilities for handloom and khadi shall have to be strengthened.

The Bill mentions and the original Act also mentioned certain provisions for exempting fees for inspection. Perhaps, the Government have in mind the sectors of handloom and khadi. We must be very clear about that because charging of fees for inspection in respect of khadi and handloom should not be there as we are concerned not only with the quality control but also we have to feed and nourish and provide all the necessities of this sector. And sometimes, if necessary, just as we have to beat the child and punish it for better ends and for its improvement, so also we have to see whether in these industries, particularly, khadi and handloom, real sympathetic assistance is needed side by side with measures of control. If the Government has not come to their rescue by way of supply of yarn, proper design and marketing facilities and also by way of setting up a machinery to control and regulate for internal as well as external markets, then, perhaps, only inspecting of the products will not lead the Government or the products anywhere.

Therefore, I suggest that so far as khadi and handloom are concerned, the Government should look into the supply of yarn, right quality and also design. With regard to weaving, so far as handloom weaving is concerned, it is just like writing poetry A poet, however great he may be, may not be writing good poetry throughout his career. Sometimes, he may write sub-standard poetry also. On average he writes good poetry and is adjudged a good poet. Now, in the case of designing and weaving also as also making of colour all designs and colours do not succeed. Only some are acceptable according to the tastes of the particular generation, we have to depend on certain researches and on a very, I should say, dynamic machinery to be established in all States and to be co-ordinated by the Centre to pick out such accepted designs and colours for extensive production. I would, therefore suggest that we control quality and also provide the machinery, the infrastructure and other necessary things which lead to quality production.

[Shri N. Tombi Singh]

I would like to draw the attention of the Government to this fact. I do not know whether this is the relevant forum for discussing about the handloom industry in Manipur. But, the State being under the President's rule, I think that there is much relevance. I therefore crave your indulgence to allow me one or two minutes. And then I shall conclude.

I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the fate of the handloom industry in Manipur. We have been demanding establishment of a separate directorate for this purpose in the last many years but the same has not been done. We have also been demanding for ensuring supply of the right count of yarn and at the right time to the weaver. This too has not been done. Weaving however continues to be part and parcel of the people's social and economic life. If anything can be done during the President's rule in Manipur, this will be a most welcome step if the Government of India can take measures to establish a separate directorate and task force for handloom and to provide it there with the necessary machinery and other means by which the weavers may receive cheap yarn and of the right count and in right time. The Government should help them in marketing the products so that the middle-men will not be able to exploit them any more. I, therefore, say that it will be a most welcome step if, during the President's rule, the Government of India gives due attention to this problem.

Coming to the general aspect of the handloom all over the country, my suggestion is that we have to rethink about the performance on the export sector. The credit for the amount of foreign exchange that has been earned by khadi and handloom in the matter of its export goes to the design and craftsmanship of weaving done here. Leaving apart the amount of foreign exchange earned in this sector it is this which creates an image of our country in the foreign countries. The whole of our tradition is for capturing the hearts of other countries. Therefore, I hope this aspect should receive fresh attention of the Government.

With these few words, I support the Bill.

SHRI P. M. MEHTA (Bhavnagar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Bill is to levy a cess at the rate not exceeding one per cent *ad valorem* on all textiles and textile machinery. It imposes a cess of the order of Rs. 8 crores on the consumers—on the people. The amount is going to be credited to the Consolidated Fund and then it will be utilised for the purpose maintained in the Bill.

This is not a proper way to tax the people. Apart from this, the prices of cotton textiles and the cloth have gone up so high that the Government was compeled to introduce a scheme to weave cloth at a cheaper rate which is called 'quality controlled cloth'. But, this controlled cloth is not available in any part of the country. The consumers do not get it at all. Mr. Chairman. Sir, you are well aware of the situation that the consumers do not get a metre of controlled cloth at the controlled price in the market in the whole of India.

DR. RANEN SEN: Because it is not produced.

SHRI P. M. MEHTA: It is not produced. It goes to the black market. There is no adequate distribution system to make it reach the consumer.

The handloom and the powerloom industry are exempted from the cess. In the same way, controlled cloth also should be exempted from the cess. Otherwise, the price of the controlled cloth also will go up very high. Even at present, the ordinary consumers

are not finding it possible to purchase cloth from the market, and if this cess is levied, the price will go up still further, and therefore, the whole scheme will fail. So, I would urge that controlled cloth should be exempted from the cess.

My second point is regarding the rates. If it is levied at the rate of one per cent, if will fetch an amount of Rs. 8 crores to Government. But this Bill does not indicate the requirements of the Textile Committee, what schemes they want to implement in the current year and what schemes they want to implement during the coming plan. Government should come forward before the House with details of the requirements of the Textile Committee and they should levy the cess only with the approval of the House. In any case, controlled cloth should be exempted from the cess.

श्री नवल किशोर सिंह (मुजफ्फपुर) : सभापति जी, मैं इस विधेयक का समर्थन करने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूं। कुछ माननीय सदस्यों ने इस एक प्रतिशत सेस पर आपत्ति की है और यह बताया है कि कपड़ों पर जो एक्साइज ड्यूटी है उस से सरकार को बहुत काफी आय हो रही है। और अधिक आय लगाने की कोई आवश्यकता नहीं है। केवल पचास लाख रुपये के लिए या एक करोड़ रुपये के लिए यह अतिरिक्त सेस क्यों लगाया जा रहा है? यह दलील तो हर टैक्स प्रस्ताव में दी जा सकती है। जब भी कोई टैक्स का मामला आये, इस में यह कहा जा सकता है कि सरकार के पास पहले से ही इतने हजार करोड़ हैं तो फिर नया टैक्स क्यों लगाया जाय। लेकिन मुझे एक दूसरी बात कहनी है और मैं चाहता हूं माननीय व्यापार मंत्री इस बात को सुनें। वह बात यह है कि मेरा गांव का, छोटे शहरों का और शहरों का तजुर्बा यह है कि कोई भी टैक्स, कोई भी सेस या एक्साइज ड्यूटी जब लगती है तो चाहे सरकार की नीयत हो या न हो कि उस का कोई प्रभाव उपभोक्ता पर पड़े, लेकिन जो विक्रेता हैं वे उस मौके का लाभ उठाने से चूकते नहीं है। वे इस बात को कह कर दाम बड़ा लेते हैं। अखबारों में ये चीजें निकलती हैं, जनता केवल इतना जानती है कि कोई टैक्स लगा है। वह टैक्स उपभोक्ताओं पर लगा या नहीं, वह न तो अखबार वाले छापते हैं और न जनता इस को जान सकती है। ऐसी दशा में कोई भी सेस या एक्साइज ड्यूटी लगायेंगे तो सामान्य स्तर पर उपभोक्ता को जो कपड़े की बिक्री होती है, उसमें उस को दाम बढ़ा कर देना पड़ेगा। मैं समझता हूं —हमारे मंत्री जी या उपमंत्री जी इस तथ्य से अपरिचित नहीं होंगे। यह जरूर जानते होंगे कि कपड़ों के विक्रेता किस तरह से इस का लाभ उठाते हैं।

इस बात को सरकार सोच सकती हैं कि कपड़े के दाम खास कर पिछले कुछ दिनों में बहुत बढे हैं और इस सेस से कपड़े का दाम और बहुने का कोई खतरा है या नहीं, परन्तु व्यवहार में सरकार के कागजों में दाम न बढ़ने के बाद भी बढ़ ही जायेंगे। मेहता जी ने अभी कहा कि कन्ट्रोल का कपड़ा जनता को नहीं मिल रहा है—इस में जहां तक केन्द्रीय सरकार का सवाल है, उस का कोई दोष नहीं है केन्द्रीय सरकार ने कन्ट्रोल का कपड़ा राज्य सरकारों

[श्री नवल किशोर सिन्हा]

मुहिया कर दिया, लेकिन इस में सब से बड़ी बात यह है कि राज्य सरकारों के पास कन्ट्रोल के कपड़े के वितरण का कोई प्रबन्ध नहीं है। यह बात भी सही है कि जो इन का आर्डर है, जो इन का एलाटमेन्ट है वह भी महीनों तक पड़ा रहता है। राज्य सरकार के द्वारा नियुक्त अभिकर्ता इस को उठा नहीं पाते हैं। इस सम्बन्ध में राज्य सरकारों को व्यवस्था करनी चाहिए।

16 hrs

मैं दो बातें कहने जा रहा हूं और मुझे विश्वास है हमारे उपमंत्री जी ध्यान से उन को सुनेंगे और उन के सम्बन्ध में कुछ राय दे सकें तो देंगे। हम इस बात को जानते हैं कि हमारे देश में ग़रीबों और सामान्य तबक़े के लोगों के लिये कपड़े की कमी है। उनके कपड़े का दाम ज्यादा रहता है। हमारे देश में रूई की कमी है। रूई में हम स्वावलम्बी नहीं हैं। बाहर से रूई हमें इम्पोट करनी पड़ती है। जब ऐसी हालत है तो 18 हजार नमूने कपड़ों के जो बनते हैं, जिस की अनुमति न देते हैं वह क्यों करते हैं। हम क्यों नहीं कोई संख्या की सीमा निश्चित कर दें ताकि बाहर से जो रूई हम मंगाते हैं, बहुत सारे दाम दे कर, जिस का हमारे फारेन एक्सचेन्ज पर भी बहुत गहरा असर पड़ता है, उस में हमें कुछ सुविधा मिले। दुनियां भर के नमूने बाजार में हमें देखने को मिलते हैं जब कि दूसरे देशों में इतने प्रकार के कपड़े नहीं बनते हैं। खास कर जो डवेलपिंग नेशन्ज हैं, विकासशील देश जिन को हम कहते हैं, वहां पर इस तरह के नमूने हम को देखने को नहीं मिलते। यहां पर एक महीन धोती है तो दस तरह की है। एक सुपरफाइन है तो दस तरह की है। एक कमीज़ का कपड़ा है तो दो सौ तरह का है। इस को हम वेस्टेज समझते हैं और अनावश्यक मानते हैं।

दूसरी बात यह है कि इसी टैक्सटाइल कमेटी के नियंत्रण में यह टैकनोलौजिकल विकास आता है। एक तरह अम्बर चर्खा है, खादी है, पावर लूम है और दूसरी तरफ़ बड़ी बड़ी टैक्सटाइल मिलें हैं। टैक्सटाइल कमेटी क्या टैक्सटाइल मशीनरी या फैक्टरी की इन्टरमीडियेट टैकनालाजी का विकास नहीं कर सकती है? क्या ऐसी छोटी छोटी कपड़े के बनाने की मशीनें नहीं बन सकती हैं जिन से छोटी पूंजी वाले, कम पूंजीवाले जिस को हम मीडियम इण्डस्ट्रीज कहते हैं, वे उन को लगा सकें जिस में कि पूंजी कम लगे और स्थानीय रूप से किसी प्रखण्ड में बैठ कर रूई से कपड़े का उत्पादन हो सके। यह काम भी टैक्सटाइल कमेटी के अण्डर जो फैक्ट्रीज हैं उन को करना चाहिए। इन्टर-मीडियेट टैक्नालाजी की चर्चा 1971 में सब से पहले हमारे राष्ट्रपति महोदय ने की थी, लेकिन अत्यावश्यक चीज़ होते हुए भी कपड़े की रचना में जिस का अधिक से अधिक उपयोग हो सकता था, नहीं किया गया। मैं चाहता हूं कि माननीय मंत्री महोदय इस पर विचार करें कि टैक्सटाइल कमेटी की फैक्ट्रीज के लिए यह सम्भव होगा या नहीं।

इसके उपरांत श्री टोम्बी सिंह जी ने जो बातें अभी यहां कहीं, उन को मैं दोहराऊंगा नहीं, उनके हर शब्द और भाव का मैं समर्थन करता हूं।

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): Mr. Chairman Sir, although many points have been covered by my hon. friend Dr. Ranen Sen who spoke on behalf of my Group, there are certain aspects of the Bill which need clarification, and I would request the hon. Minister to clarify those few points

After reading the Statement of Objects and Reasons, it is found that by imposing one per cent additional cess *ad valorem*—this is one of the recommendations of the Textiles Committee—probably the Government is going to collect nearly Rs. 5 crores to Rs. 6 crores. The new section 5F which is sought to be added by this amending Bill says:—

> "The proceeds of the duty of excise collected under section 5A, reduced by the cost of collection as determined by the Central Government, shall first be credited to the Consilidated Fund of India and the Central Government may, after due appropriation made by Parliament by law, pay to the Committee from out of such proceeds, such sums of money as it thinks fit for being utilised for the purposes of this Act."

It clearly means that it is an additional cess which is going to be imposed or levied and which will ultimately fall as a burden on the shoulders of the consumer, because the prices have already gone very high.

I come from Kanpur where practically all the textile mills are manufacturing only medium and coarse cloth. Some of them are manufacturing superfine cloth, but the practice in this country is that the coarse cloth is being sold as medium, medium is sold as fine and fine as superfine. So, superfine cloth is not available at all actualy, and in the name of selling superfine cloth, other types are sold. A pair of dhoties manufactured by any textile unit or factory, say in Bombay or Ahmedabad especially, costs Rs. 56. It is Rs. 56 a pair, for a superfine variety of dhoti. If you really compare it with the dhoties of 1955 or 1956, if there are any kept as a sample in your house, you will find that the present-day variety is much inferior to the old one. So, in the name of improving the quality of cloth, this cess is being imposed. I would like to know what percentage will go actually to the Textiles Committee for this purpose, and what is going to be the positive going to the Government. According to me, this is another way of putting the burden on the consumer in the name of a levy. It shall not have been done in this fashion, because the prices of textile articles, whether it is dhoti or shirting or anything, are so high in the country today that people are unable to buy anything. They are switching over to handloom products As my hon. friend Shri Tombi Singh correctly said, this time the rush was so great for handloom products, handloom cloth, that there was hardly anything left. This concession was given for a month or so in connection with Gandhiji's birthday—2nd October onwards. The cost of a khadi shirt, whether coloured or white, was hardly Rs. 12 to Rs. 14 a piece. Nobody can possibly purchase a cloth and get a shirt stitched or manufactured out of it at a cost of just Rs. 13 or so.

So, if the intention of the Government is to provide cheap cloth, shirting or dhoti or any other thing, reasonably priced, why this levy, which is going to increase the price of cloth all round? I want an assurance from the hon. Minister in this regard. This

[Shri S. M. Banerjee]

fresh levy is in addition to the existing duties. It is clear, whom you read the new section 5A which says:—

> "The duty of excise levied under sub-section (1) shall be in addition to any cess or duty leviable on textiles or textile machinery under any other law for the time being in force."

So, this is in addition. So, I request the hon. Minister to clarify it, and avoid this double taxation. The levy which is existing at present is enough; let us not add another burden on the common man, because I think ultimately this will have to be borne by the consumer.

With these words, I request the hon. Minister to clarify the position so that we will be satisfied that none of these measures is going to tax the poor further. Otherwise, this is another way of taxing the poor people, in a very circuitous manner, to the tune of Rs. 6 crores.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY (Nizamabad): I want to make only one point. I request the hon. Minister to expand the scope of the Bill to cover inspection of the machinery of the old mills and also arrange for the replacement of the old machinery. Some of our textile mills are 120 years old and they have to be modernised. The mill owners are not modernising them. So many mills are, therefore, becoming sick and the Government is being forced to take them over. We are able to produce textile machinery in our country. Every year we are producing machinery worth Rs. 60 crores. Unfortunately the textile mills are not utilising this machinery. Therefore, 50 per cent of this is exported. We are not in a position to utilise even Rs. 30 crores worth of machinery.

I want to know from the hon. Minister how he is going to force the mill owners to modernise the mills. Otherwise all the mills will become sick and the Government will have to take over all of them. We have to invest enormous sums of money to modernise sick mills. The owners are diverting their profits to other businesses. They should be forced to invest all their money in modernisation of these textile mills.

Shri Ram Singh said that the cost of cotton had gone down whereas the cost of cloth had gone up. There is reason for that. The inputs in the manufacture of cloth have gone up. The wage bill has gone up by three or four times. Even when the labourers are on an illegal strikes they have to be paid bonus. That is why cloth has become very costly. But the efficiency of the labour has gone down. They are working only 50 per cent of their capacity, but they are taking full pay. Half work and full pay—that is the rule. The day is not far off when it will be no work, but full pay..... (*Interruptions*). Wherever the INTUC units are there, the workers are working conscientiously and wherever the communist unions are there they are not only not working properly but they are hindering the loyal workers in work. That is why the mills are incurring losses. Our Prime Minister the other day said in the party meeting that if they put a stop to these illegal strikes for three or four years to come, our country could improve. In spite of their hindrances the country will go ahead under the leadership of Shrimati Indira Gandhi..... (*Interruptions*).

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय (मुरैना) : सभापति जी, विदेश व्यापार मंत्री जो बिल ले कर आये हैं मैं इस का विरोध करता हूं। इस बिल के माध्यम से जो टैक्स लगाया जा रहा है 1 प्रतिशत, इसका भार देश की गरीब जनता पर पड़ने वाला है। आप इसलिए बढ़ाना चाहते हैं

या लगाना चाहते हैं कि आप टैक्सटाइल कमेटी पर अधिक खर्च करना चाहते हैं। परन्तु आपने यह नहीं बताया है कि उस पर आप कितना खर्च करेंगे। आप सात आठ करोड़ की इनकम करेंगे। आज साठ लाख रुपया उस कमेटी पर खर्च होता है। यह कमेटी करती क्या है? कमेटी का कोई काम नहीं है, इसकी अच्छी रिपोर्ट नहीं है, इसने कोई करिश्मा करके क्या दिखाया है। और ना ही इस कमेटी में कोई विशेषता है। फिजूल के लोग अफसर बन कर बैठे हैं जो कौड़ी का काम नहीं करते हैं। आप देखें कि अन्य देशों को जो हमारा कपड़ा गया उसको इस कमेटी ने चैक नहीं किया। इस कमेटी का ऐसी अवस्था में फायदा क्या है? जिस क्वालिटी का भेजना चाहिए था उसका नहीं भेजा। इसके कारण बड़ी मात्रा में हमारा भेजा हुआ कपड़ा रिजक्ट हुआ, पास नहीं हुआ और वापिस आ गया। मैं जानना चाहता हूं कितना कपड़ा भेजा गया था और कितना वापिस आया और इसमें कितना घाटा हुआ?

जहां तक मशीनरी की बात है वह बहुत खराब दशा में है। मैंने स्वयं 15 साल तक टैक्सटाइल मिल में काम किया है। मुझे इसका अच्छा अनुभव है —

श्री सन्त साठे (अकोला): किस में और किस पद पर?

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय: विनोद मिल उज्जैन में और एक वीवर के तौर पर जो मशीनरी सौ डेढ़ सौ वर्ष पहले लगाई गई थी वही चली आ रही है। उस में कोई सुधार नहीं हुआ है।

109 मिलें आपने अपने हाथ में ली हैं, उन में कंट्रोलर नियुक्त किए हैं। कंट्रोलर्ज को टैक्नीकल ज्ञान नहीं है कपड़े के बारे में, मिलों के बारे में। वे आई० ए० एस० के अफसर हैं। जो लोग उन मिलों में काम करते हैं या जो चलाते हैं वे टैक्नीकल लोग होने चाहिए, व्यापारी वर्ग के लोग भी उन में लिए जाने चाहिए, मजदूरों के प्रतिनिधि भी उन में लिए जाने चाहियें और ऐसे लोग मिल कर अगर उसको चलाएंगे तो वहां घाटा नहीं होगा। आपकी जो मिलें हैं वे बोनस नहीं देती हैं, बाकी सब देती हैं। आप की मिलों की तरफ बाकी मिलों के मुकाबले में मजदूरों का प्रविडेन्ट फंड की अधिक राशि बाकी है। वहां पर नाना प्रकार के घोटाले होते हैं। सामान जो मिल के लिए खरीदा जाता है उस में अफसर लोग काफी घोटाला करते हैं। साथ ही उनका कमीशन निश्चित होता है तथा जिनसे सामान खरीदते हैं उनका भुगतान बिलम्ब से किया जाता है।

जो कमेटी है वह ठीक काम नहीं कर रही है। कमेटी में अच्छे लोग, टैक्नीकल लोग आप रखें। वह ठीक प्रकार से जांच कार्य को करें। जो माल विदेशों को जाता

[श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय]

हैं उसकी क्वालिटी अच्छी हो, रिपोर्ट उसकी अच्छी आए ताकि हम अधिक से अधिक विदेशी मुद्रा कमा सकें।

जो और गड़बड़ी चल रही है उसको भी आप देखें। होता यह है कि जो 20 मीटर का थान होता है उसमें 18 मीटर ही कपड़ा निकलता है। मुहर कुछ लगी होती है और कपड़ा कुछ और निकलता है। अनेकों इस प्रकार की शिकायत आई हैं। हमारे पूर्व वक्ता पांडेय जी ने कहा कि ग्वालियर और इन्दौर में इस प्रकार की बात हो रही हैं। बिड़ला की वह मिल है ग्वालियर में तथा अन्य मिल भी हैं जो इस प्रकार से कम कपड़ा देती हैं। छपे हुए रेट को फाड़ कर मार्किट में ला कर उसको बेचती है।

यह जो टैक्स आप लगा रहे हैं यह बहुत अधिक है। आपको इससे आठ करोड़ की इनकम होगी। यह भार जनता पर ही पड़ने वाला है। मिल मालिक इसका लाभ उठा कर चौगुना मुनाफ़ा कमाएंगे। इसकी कोई जरूरत नहीं है। एक प्रतिशत टैक्स का जो असर है यह बहुत बुरा होगा। इसका सारा असर गरीबों पर पड़ने वाला है। इस वास्ते मैं आप से प्रार्थना करता हूं कि आप इस बिल को वापिस ले लें।

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA): Sir, I must thank hon. Members who have spoken on this Bill, sometimes on general principles and sometimes on details. Many points and issues have been raised. In the course of my reply I would like to touch upon only the main points. Even though I may not touch on each of the problems or issues raised by my friends, I can assure you, Sir, that I have taken due note of their contentions.

Shri Datta referred to the poor quality of the textiles allegedly exported by us to Bangladesh. As you may be aware, this has been discussed in the press and the public for a long time. I would like to say that Government had no particular say in this matter because on an urgent request from the Bangladesh Government some textile supplies had to be rushed, air-lifted, to Bangladesh. So, the requisite inspection could not be enforced.

DR. RANEN SEN: But the STC did it.

PROF. D. P. CATTOPADHYAYA: It was also the responsibility of the other party to inspect the quality. Because of the speed at which it had to be done, the quality could not be checked. But this time when we entered into a trade agreement with Bangladesh we have stipulated that there should be double inspection. Whether the Bangladesh Government can or cannot organise inspection, we on our own have done it and will do it. But double inspection is a time-consuming affair and time is the essence of the whole thing. Sometimes, even if we want to inspect a thing, it is not always possible for the Bangladesh Government to agree to it. But I may tell you that we are taking every possible measure so that the textiles we export to Bangladesh are free from the blemishes referred to by hon. Members.

It has been stated by Dr. Sen and also by Shri Datta that there are a lot of complaints against our textile goods. The facts do not bear out these allegations. Out of the 70,000 consignments we have exported last year we have received complaints

only in respect of ten. But I am not taking a very complacent attitude about our quality control machinery. In fact, one of the purposes of bringing this amendment is to ensure further strengthening of our quality control machinery. At the same time, I would say that we ourselves should not exaggerate it or paint a very unfavourable picture because that may damage our cause. Of course, I appreciate the motive of the hon. Members who want to highlight this so that we can improve the quality and thereby improve the performance of our exports. We can assure you that we are very much at it.

Shri Damani and many other friends asked why we are imposing a levy of one per cent which will give a revenue of about Rs. 8 crores. A close reading of the actual words of the amending Bill will indicate it very clearly that we have only said that it should not exceed one per cent. In my explanatory note I have said that we will fix the rate after assessment and inspection and that we will not necessarily fix it at one per cent and collect Rs. 8 crores. It is the maximum ceiling, not exceeding 1 per cent. We are not necessarily hitting or touching the ceiling. What actually we will raise depends upon our requirement. So, I cannot give any accurate figure. If our inspection machinery is to be further strengthened, if our production base is to be further augmented, our money requirement will be greater. Instead of coming frequently before the House, we are making that much provision.

Now, we are spending Rs. 80 lakhs. But according to our present calculation, we may need Rs. 1.20 crores or Rs. 1.30 crores. This is not a static figure as there is a large demand, an increasing demand, a phenomenal demand, for our textiles. Our production line is going to be significantly augmented, deepened and broadened. Therefore, our quality control machinery in the light of the increased demand for our goods may have to be increased. We have made that provision of 1 per cent legally. Actually, we may not ourselves avail of that.

Dr. Ranen Sen also referred about the complaints from socialist countries. About Bangladesh, we have received some complaints. But from our socialist friends, we have not received any complaint whatsoever.

Mr. Limaye spoke about adequacy of ½ per cent. At present, perhaps, even ½ per cent will not be necessary. As I have already submitted, in view of the increasing and sustained demand for our goods, our inspection machinery has to be improved and increased. Therefore, we have made a provision for that.

Mr. Ramsingh Bhai Verma spoke quantity of *per capita* consumption of textiles. He said, perhaps, our cloth availability has come down to 12 metres per head. It is not that bad. It is 14.96 metres per head. Our annual production of mill-made cotton textiles now is about 4,000 million metres.

Many friends referred to high rate of profits being reaped by the textile industry. As you know, there are different ways of calculating profit. Profit may be calculated on the basis of total sale proceeds in relation to a particular base year or just the previous base year. There is another way of calculating return on the capital investment. The more scientific way of calculating the return is on the basis of capital investment. We find, in 1972-73, the net profit on sales in the textile industry was 4.1 per cent as against 2.4 per cent in 1971-72. What I would like to point out is that while it is an irrefutable fact that the textile industry fetched a better profit of 4.1 per cent in 1972-73, perhaps, it will not be correct

[Prof. D. P. Chattopadhyaya]

to say that it is a huge profit or a massive profit.

DR. RANEN SEN: Your calculation is based on....

PROF. D. P. CATTOPADHYAYA: It is based on the Balance Sheets of 199 mills and we think that that is a fairly representative sample. There may be some inadequacies. If they are brought to our notice, we will be glad to look into them....

DR. RANEN SEN: It is a well known fact that the Balance Sheets are manipulated, whether in the industry or in the Government.

PROF. D. P. CATTOPADHYAYA: I would not comment on that aspect. But I have said that in the light of the available facts and figures. Whether the facts and figures are concocted or manipulated is a matter of judgment, and I am not sitting in judgment at the moment on the floor of the House.

Shri P. M. Mehta has requested that controlled cloth could be exempted from the purview of this Bill. This is a worth-considering suggestion and it will be considered.

Shri Tombi Singh asked whether handloom could be exempted from the purview of this Bill. It is already exempted.

I would like to say that our Ministry is at the moment engaged in an exercise to evolve an integrated textile policy because a textile policy cannot be rationally formulated unless we integrate the different sectors, i.e., the mill sector, the handloom sector, the powerloom sector, the price structure of raw cotton itself, the export sector, home consumption, etc., so that all the facets of the industry could be rationally integrated and the price mechanism could be disciplined and controlled. We are looking into the matter, and by the end of this month or early next month, we hope we will come to a conclusion and come before the House and inform it.

DR. RANEN SEN: One very important point has been missed by almost all speakers and that is in regard to the apprehension about price rise. What has he to say about that?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill to amend the Textiles Committee Act, 1963, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now we take up clause-by-clause consideration. There are no amendments to Clauses 2 to 5. I shall put them all together to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That Clauses 2 to 5 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 5 were added to the Bill.

Clause 6—(*Insertion of new sections 5A, 5B, 5C, 5D, 5E and 5F*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are three amendments to Clause 6 in the name of Shri M. C. Daga. Is he moving them?

SHRI M. C. DAGA (Pali): I am not moving amendment No. 1. I am moving amendments Nos. 2 and 3.

I beg to move:

Page 4, line 34,—

for "it thinks fit" *substitute*

"laid down in the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908" (2).

Page 4, line 36,—

for "trying a suit" *substitute*—

"hearing an appeal" (3).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you want to speak on your amendments?

SHRI M. C. DAGA: I want to say a few words.

Section 5B reads as follows:

"The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, constitute a Tribunal consisting of one person, who is or has been, or is qualified for appointment as, a Judge of a High Court and who is not connected with the Committee, to exercise the powers and discharge the functions conferred or imposed on the Tribunal by or under this Act."

Section 5C reads as follows:

"An appeal under sub-section (7) of section 5A may be preferred to the Tribunal within one month from the date on which the notice of demand regarding the assessment is served on the manufacturer...." etc., etc.

So, the decision of the Committee will be appealed against to this Tribunal. Under Section 5A you have given the power to the appellate court which will be a Tribunal appointed by the Government. The Central Government has appointed this Tribunal and that Tribunal has been given the appellate powers and that will be taken into consideration under sub-section (7). What does this sub-section say:

"Any manufacturer aggrieved by an assessment made under this section may appeal to the Tribunal, constituted under section 5B for cancellation or modification of the assessment."

Now what I am submitting is that in discharging the functions under this sub-section, the tribunal may be subject to any rules that may be made in this behalf. What are those Rules? It is silent. 'Such procedures as it thinks fit'—what is the procedure? There, I have said 'as laid down in the Civil Procedure Code', because, after all, you are saying that the Tribunal shall have all the powers of a civil court while trying a suit under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, in respect of the following matters etc. etc. Then why do you give the Tribunal these powers? What are the powers? Then in sub-section (6) of 5C you say:

"In discharging the functions under this section the Tribunal may, subject to any rules...."

What are those rules? The rules still to be framed by the Government? You want us to delegate the power to frame the rules? Then it says:

"....that may be made in this behalf, follow such procedure as it thinks fit."

What is the procdure that it thinks fit? So, I have said that 'as it thinks fit' should be omitted and replaced by 'as laid down in the Civil Procedure Code'. You say that the Tribunal shall have all the powers of a civil court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908. Then why do you say 'as it thinks fit'? Then what is that 'such procedure'?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: The point is very simple. The clause 6 says on page 4, line 34:

"such procedure as it thinks fit."

This the hon. Member wants to be substituted by 'such procedure as laid down in the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908'. The point is that this sort of administrative tribunal sets its own procedure and that is why we have not mentioned it. It is a well-known practice. .... (*Interruptins*). Yes self-regulatory. So, they question of imposing the Procedure of Civil Procedure Code is cumbersome; time-consuming and will not be consistent

[Shri M. C. Daga]

with the objective of this sort of Tribunal. So, the suggestion of my friend, I find, is not acceptable to me.

SHRI M. C. DAGA: Again in the sub-clause you have said that the Tribunal shall have all the powers of a civil court....

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, please. He has already replied to it.

Now, I will put Mr. Daga's amendments Nos. 2 and 3 to clause 6 to vote.

Amendments Nos. 2 and 3 were put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the question is:

"That clause 6 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 6 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 7 to 10 were also added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were also added to the Bill.

DR. RANEN SEN: Before that, I want to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the Minister move that the Bill be passed. And then you may speak.

SHRI D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill be passed."

DR. RANEN SEN: Sir, the hon. Minister has replied to some of the points raised by the speakers here. He has tried to clarify certain points. Whether the points made by him are acceptable to the Members or not, it is for them to say. One very important point has been raised by almost all the speakers. That is this. Taking advantage of this taxation, namely, levy of a cess, the industrialists will try to raise the price of textiles. It has been our experience—it has been stated by all the Members here—that if one per cent is levied, then the employers take that opportunity to raise the price by 10 per cent or even by 20 per cent, if not, more. Therefore, this levy being a sort of an indirect taxation, as has been mentioned by many other hon. Members, we want to know whether the Government have thought over this question of taking any measures. I mean, has the government taken any measure or is it contemplating any measure to halt the price has consequent upon this levy.

श्री मधु लिमये : अभी मंत्री महोदय ने कहा कि 1 परसेंट से तकरीबन 8 करोड़ इनको मिल सकता है, यह कहा है। केवल पार्लियामेंट को यह तकलीफ नहीं देना चाहते हैं इसलिए इस विधेयक के तहत अधिकार ले लेना चाहते हैं ताकि बिना पार्लियामेंट से पूछे नोटिफिकेशन के जरिये बढ़ाने का अधिकार मिल जाय। तो वह जो प्रवृत्ति है वह बड़ी घातक प्रवृत्ति है और हम को तकलीफ देने के बारे में इन को इतना ज्यादा नहीं सोचना चाहिए। हम तकलीफ उठाने के लिए तैयार हैं। जो कुछ आवश्यक है उसी के लिए उन को कानून पास करना चाहिए। अगर यह नहीं करेंगे तो हम को फिर विरोध करना पड़ेगा।

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: Sir, I forget to clarify that point which has been raised by Dr. Ranen Sen and other friends. I would first of all like to say that the full ceiling is not being resorted to. Therefore, we are not taking Rs. 8 crores which we are legally entitled to

get if this Bill is passed by this Parliament. The second point is a larger one. I have touched upon it. On principle I have said that we are bringing forward an integrated textile policy wherein we shall take care of the problem of price rise and I can assure you that every attempt will be made by the Ministry to see that the cess is not reflected in the higher price. I will see to it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the question is:

"That the Bill be passed"

The motion was adopted.

16.43 hrs.

DIRECT TAXES (AMENDMENT) BILL

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we take up the Direct Taxes (Amendment) Bill.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN): Sir, I move:

> 'That the Bill further to amend the Income-tax Act, 1961, the Wealth-tax Act, 1957, the Gift-tax Act, 1958 and the Companies (Profits): Surtax Act, 1964 and to provide for certain related matters, be taken into consideration'.

Sir, in my Budget speech this year, I had given an indication of certain measures which Government had in mind for encouraging industries in selected sectors and these in backward areas, as also for promotion of research and development and exports. I had also assured the hon. House that necessary legislation to give effect to these proposals would be sponsored in the course of the year. One of the principal objects of the present Bill is to implement that assurance. The Bill also contains a number of other proposals for removing difficulties experienced in the administration of direct taxation laws and for providing tax exemption in respect of certain categories of income.

With a view to encouraging industries in selected sectors, it is proposed to grant an initial depreciation allowance of 20 per cent of the cost of machinery and plant installed after 31st May, 1974. The initial depreciation allowance will be available in respect of new machinery and plant installed for the purposes of production of articles and things specified in the Ninth Schedule proposed to be inserted in the Income-tax Act.

Selection of industries for the proposed tax concession has been made, keeping in view the priority from the angle of exports, essential needs of intermediate and investment goods, essential needs of mass consumption, the existence of capacity, constraints on production and other relevant factors.

New machinery and plant installed for the purposes of generation and distribution of electricity or any other form of power, and new ships or aircraft acquired by shipping or aircraft enterprises will also qualify for initial depreciation. Secondhand ships which were not previously used by any person resident in India and recondition machinery and plant imported from abroad will also be eligible for the initial depreciation allowance.

The initial depreciation allowance will not be deductible in computing the written down value of the asset. It will, however, be taken into account in the year in which the asset is sold, discarded, demolished or destroyed or in the year in which the normal depreciation tends to exceed 80 per cent of the cost. The aggregate amount of initial depreciation and normal depreciation allowance

[Shri Yeshwantrao Chavan]

will thus be limited to the cost of the asset to the taxpayer.

In order to provide a stimulus to investment in backward areas, the Bill provides for a deduction equal to 20 per cent of the profits derived by new industrial undertakings set up in specified backward areas in computing their taxable profits. The backward areas specified in this behalf are the same as have been identified by the Planning Commission for the grant of concessional finance by public financial institutions. Some of the districts listed as backward areas in the Bill have been reorganised and a few other districts have been added to the list of backward areas qualifying for concessional finance. I would the Bill to bring the list of backward like the Bill to bring the list of backward areas in line with the up-dated position.

In the case of industrial undertakings which commence production after 31st March, 1973, the concession will be available for a period of ten years from the year in which the undertaking commences production. In the case of industrial undertaking which commenced production after 31st December, 1970 but before 1st April, 1973, the concession will be available only for the unexpired portion of the ten-year period from the commencement of production. Approved hotels set up in backward areas will likewise be eligible for the proposed tax concession.

With a view to encouraging the development of indigenous technology and self-reliance in industry, it is proposed to enlarge the area of fiscal incentives for promoting research and development. At present, capital expenditure incurred on scientific research related to the taxpayer's business during three years immediately preceding the commencement of the business is allowed to be written off against the profits of the year in which the business is commenced. This concession is, however, not available in respect of revenue expenditure incurred on such research during the pre-investment period. It is proposed to provide that expenditure incurred by taxpayers on payment of salaries to research personnel and on material inputs during the three years immediately preceding the commencement of the business will be deductible in computing the taxable profits of the year in which the business is commenced. The deduction will be available only in respect of expenditure incurred after 31st March 1973 and will be limited to the amount certified by the prescribed authority have been actually spent on the qualifying items. It is further proposed to grant a weighted deduction in an amount equal to one and one-third times the amount paid by taxpayers for sponsored research related to their business in approved laboratories. Payments made for such sponsored research during the three years prior to the commencement of the business will also be deducted in computing the taxable profits of the year in which the business is commenced.

Under an existing provision in the law, a weighted deduction equal to one and one-third times the amount of expenditure incurred on development of export markets on a long-term basis is allowed in computing the taxable profits. The Bill seeks to increase the weighted deduction, in the case of widely-held companies, to one and one-half times the amount of qualifying expenditure.

Under the Income-tax Act, penalty is impossible in the case of a taxpayer for delay or default in furnishing the return of income. The penalty is calculated at two per cent of the tax payable by the assessee for every month during which the default continues subjct to a maximum of 50 per cent of the tax. For this purpose, the expression "the tax" has consistently been construed by the Income-tax Department to mean the tax determined in the basis of assessment as reduced

by the tax, if any, deducted at source or paid in advance. In a recent case, the Supreme Court has, however, held that the penalty is to be calculated with reference only to the net tax payable by a person after deducting the tax paid by him on self-assessment or provisional assessment. In view of this ruling, taxpayers will be able to delay or withhold their returns of income without exposing themselves to the risk of any penalty. This is because a delinquent taxpayer when detected by the departments could furnish the return of income, promptly pay the tax on the basis thereof and thus save himself from penal consequences. This will defeat the intention underlying the provision.

Another effect of the judgment will be that in a very large number of cases where penalty has already been imposed for delay or default in furnishing returns of income on the basis hitherto adopted by the department, penalty orders will have to be vacated or rectified in the light of the ruling of the Supreme Court. This would generate enormous administrative work and will also entail refund of large amounts already collected by way of penalty.

In view of the foregoing considerations the Bill seeks to make an amendment in the Income-tax Act to secure that for the purposes of imposing a penalty for delay or default in furnishing returns of income, the penalty will be calculated with reference to the tax determined on assessment as reduced only by the tax, if any, deducted at source or paid in advance.

This amendment will take effect from 1st April 1962 that is the date of the commencement of the Income-tax Act 1961. The Bill, however, specifically provides that the proposed amendment will not apply in relation to cases where taxpayers have obtained a favourable ruling from the Supreme Court prior to the introduction of the Bill. This exception is being made to preserve the sanctity if the decisions of the Supreme Court and also on the ground that taxpayers who have brought the case up to the Supreme Court and incurred expenditure thereon should not be denied the benefit of its judgment.

As the ruling of the Supreme Court relating to imposition of penalty under the Income-tax Act will also have relevance for the purposes of penalties imposable under the other direct taxes enactments, it is proposed to make similar provisions in relation to penalties for delay or default in furnishing returns of net wealth, taxable gifts and chargeable profits.

Receipts of a casual and non-recurring nature were brought within the ambit of taxation under an amendment made in the Income-tax Act by the Finance Act 1972. With a view to encouraging activities in the sphere of science, literature, arts and sports, it is proposed to make a specific provision for the exemption of awards for literary, scientific and artistic work, as also for proficiency in sports and games, instituted or approved by the Central Government. It is also proposed to make a provision in the law for the exemption of rewards given by the Central Government or any State Government for such purposes as may be approved by the Central Government in the public interest.

Under an existing provision in the law, foreign technicians employed in India under approved agreements enjoy certain tax concessions. One of the important conditions for the grant of the tax concessions is that the foreign technician should not have been resident in India in any of the four financial years immediately preceding the year in which he arrives in India. This condition has resulted in certain practical difficulties in the case of the same or similar types. This is because in the case of such projects, it sometimes becomes necessary to employ the same foreign technician from project to project. In

[Shri Yeshwantrao Chavan]

view of the condition regarding non-residence for four preceding years, a technician ceases to be entitled to the tax concession on a second assignment within four years and the undertaking has to pay tax on behalf of the technician on 'tax-on-tax' basis. This places a very heavy burden on the financial resources of the undertaking. In order to remove this difficulty, it is proposed to amend the relevant provision in the Income-tax Act with a view to enabling the Central Government to waive the condition regarding non-residence in India in the immediately preceding four years in cases where it is considered necessary to do so in public interest. This concession will, however, be available only in the case of foreign technicians engaged for designing erection or commissioning of machinery or plant or for supervising activities connected therewith.

Our public financial institutions and banks have sometimes to raise commercial loans in foreign countries. If the interest on such loans is charged to income-tax in the hands of the foreign lender, it becomes difficult for our financial institutions and banking companies to raise such loans at reasonable rates of interest. It is accordingly proposed to provide for exemption of interest income paid to foreign lenders by specified public financial institutions. Similar exemption will also be available in respect of interest by other financial institutions or banking companies on loans raised under approved agreements for the purposes of making advances to industrial undertaking in India for import of raw materials or capital plant and machinery or for the import of other essential supplies. The tax exemption will, however, be limited to the interest payable at the rate approved by the Central Government.

Under the provisions of the Income-tax Act, the Central Board of Direct Taxes is empowered, subject to the Control of the Central Government, to make rules for carrying out the purposes of that Act. Similar rule-making powers are available to the Board under the Wealth-tax Act, the Gift-tax Act and the Companies (Profits) Surtax Act. It sometimes becomes necessary for the Board to give effect to the rules from a date prior to the date on which the rules are notified in the Official Gazette. Sometimes lacunae and deficiencies in the rules come to notice and it becomes necessary to give effect to the changes made in the rules from an earlier date. It is, therefore, proposed to empower the Board to make rules to give retrospective effect to subordinate legislation which is not prejudicial to the interests of tax-payers.

Sir, the proposals in the Bill are laudable and I hope they will receive the unanimous support of the House.

Sir, I move.

श्री मधु लिमये (बांका) : मेरा एक सुझाव है कि मंत्री जी का जो भाषण है वह लम्बा है, कल उसकी एक कापी हमें मिल जाये तो अच्छा होगा।

श्री श्यामनन्दन मिश्र (बेगुसराय) : इसमें कोई कठिनाई नहीं होनी चाहिए।

सभापति महोदय : वह डिबेट में चली जायेगी।

श्री मधु लिमये : डिबेट में पूरी तो नहीं मिलती है।

सभापति महोदय : नहीं, डिबेट में पूरी मिलती है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Sezhiyan, there is an amendment in your name. Are you moving it?

SHRI SEZHIYAN: (Kumbakonam): Yes, Sir. I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Income-tax Act, 1961, the Wealth-tax Act, 1957, the Gift-tax Act, 1958 and the Companies (Profits) Sur-tax Act, 1964 and to provide for certain related matters, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of 10 members, namely:—

Shri R. Balakrishna Pillai,
Shri S. M. Banerjee,
Shri Tridib Chaudhuri,
Shri Y. B. Chavan,
Shri D. Deb,
Shri Jagannathrao Joshi,
Shri P. G. Mavalankar,
Shri Prasannbhai Mehta,
Shri H. M. Patel; and
Shri Era Sezhiyan,

with instructions to report by the last day of the first week of the next session." (12)

17 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time for this Bill is three hours.

SHRI D. K. PANDA (Bhanjanagar): According to the statement of Objects and Reasons the present Bill is more for exemption of taxes than for increase in taxes on the affluent sections or the monopoly sections in the country. It says that the main object of the amendments proposed to be made in the Income Tax Act is to provide for certain tax concessions for encouraging industries in selected sectors or in backward areas as also for the promotion of research and development and export. The uneven development of the country and backwardness of certain States have been discussed times without number. All sections of the people know that this is all due to the growth of monopoly. When the Government has accepted that the growth of monopoly is the root cause of the backwardness of the different States and at the root of the uneven economic development, they have liberalised the monopolies and trade restriction also especially with regard to monopolies. Licenses are going to be granted to these sections to start their industries in backward areas in conformity with the changed policy. These things have been brought in. Some exemptions will be given to these industrialists who will venture to go to the backward areas. That means the Tatas and Birlas who have amassed wealth and who are also circulating black-money will amass more fortunes in the name of starting industries in backward areas. They will again cheat the whole country, cheat the Government and cheat the masses. I am opposed to this clause especially because the idea is contrary to the very recommendations of the Wanchoo Committee.

Secondly, this Bill seeks to provide for exemption of taxes in respect of interests payable by financial institutions and banking institutions established in India on loans raised in foreign countries in certain cases. Here also the same monopolies and the same affluent sections will take advantage of this because it is not a small industrialist who can raise a loan in foreign countries. It is the same big monopoly houses who are given an opportunity to gain profits to a greater extent.

"(vi) to remove a practical difficulty in the working of the provision relating to tax exemption in respect of remuneration of certain foreign technicians."

Nothing has been mentioned as to why and under what conditions such foreign technicians should be given concessions.

"(v) to provide for exemption from tax in respect of rewards given by the Central or any State Government for approved purposes."

What are those approved purposes? That is not mentioned.

[Shri D. K. Panda]

Then para 3 of the statement of objects and reasons says:

> "The object of the amendments to the Wealth-tax Act, the Gift-tax Act and the Companies (Profits) Surtax Act is to bring the provisions therein relating to penalties for late submission of returns of net wealth, gifts and chargeable profits and the provisions relating to the power to make rules in line with the corresponding provisions proposed to be made in the Income-tax Act."

This is the only welcome feature in the whole Bill. But can Government remain satisfied only with imposing certain penalties in such cases? It has been demanded in this House several times and the Government also has promised that it will provide for deterrent punishment to such evaders. Suppose there is a great delay in submission of the returns. During the period of delay they earn more money and crores of rupees of interest also. So, penalty is not at all sufficient. Some deterrent punishment should be provided.

For starting industries in backward areas, for approved scientific research, for export market, for depreciation—in all these cases more and more concessions are provided in this Bill, which I totally oppose on behalf of my party. This will go against the interests of the general public and result in less of revenue to Government also.

All these years, we have been talking of so many symposiums, conferences, seminars, cells etc. There is already a cell in the Finance Ministry, but we do not get the correct picture. In June there was a conference of Income-tax Commissioners and Directors of Investigation of Income-tax. The idea was to reduce the arrears to 50 per cent. We do not know what has been the achievement. On the other hand, we are more anxious to give more concessions and exemptions. We find that up to 31st March, 1973, the gross demand of income-tax disclosed by the Finance Ministry is Rs. 790.02 crores. The net arrears is Rs. 483 crores. This is alarming and is also admitted to be alarming. Still, what is the action that the Government have taken?

We find that the direct tax is on the decline while the indirect tax is on the increase. To give one example, while in 1951-52 direct tax constituted 44 per cent, in 1971-72 it declined to 27 per cent whereas the indirect tax increased by 14 times. Because of the new concessions now proposed in this Bill the ratio between the two will further increase. At present 80 per cent of the revenue comes from indirect taxes and 20 per cent from the direct taxes. The question is whether the direct taxes on the affluent sections and the monopoly houses will be increased by this measure or not. The Government were accepting a class approach to this problem all these years.

On the face of it, it is apparent that these concessions will only increase the proportion between the direct and indirect taxes because small and medium enterprises never go in for foreign loans, nor do they go to open industries in backward areas or set up research institutes. So, these provisions will be taken advantage of only by big industrial houses. That is why we suggest that the functions of research and opening industries in backward areas should be taken over by the public sector instead of giving these concessions to big monopolies.

Now the income-tax officers are terribly afraid of going for an investigation of the affairs of any Birla concern. In some cases, the investigations were stopped and then again initiated. So, mere penal provisions cannot solve the problem. The present approach of the Government to this problem cannot solve the crisis.

If the Government come forward with proposals for increase in wealth tax, estate duty, sur-tax and gift tax then we can say that the Government are standing by their pronouncements and they mean business. Now in the whole country there are only 300 persons paying wealth-tax. In Orissa there is only one assessee; so also in Madras while there are five in Calcutta. This is the position even though there are so many rich people in both the agricultural and industrial sector. It is ridiculous. Why should they leave out so many people from the net of wealth tax? Then, as far as agricultural wealth tax is concerned, we have reached only the figure of Rs. 69.51 lakhs when the target is Rs. 8 crores. This shows how the Government is moving.

With regard to the Wealth Tax, let us take an example of one Birla house. In the case of J. K. Birla house, the Wealth Tax has decreased from Rs. 22,415 in 1965-66 to Rs. 5,911 in 1968-69. The Wealth Tax has been on the decline. In the case of R. D. Birla house, the Wealth Tax has declined from Rs. 96,961 in 1965-66 to Rs. 41,810 in 1969-70. Further, in the case of B. N. Birla house, it has declined from Rs. 58,314 in 1965-66 to Rs. 31,125 in 1968-69. This is the position. Of course, you may say that these are irrelevant things. But this shows the trend. The capital gains are never taxed. The poor sections of the people are more taxed. Indirect taxation is on the increase. This is the trend. Even when these exemptions and concessions are going to be given, the same trend is continuing. I just wanted to bring to the notice of the House how the Wealth Tax in the case of Birlas, in the case of the entire family of Birlas, has been going down.

Similarly there was a test audit and so many suggestions had been made. There is absolutely no purpose to bring forward such a Bill in the name of industrial development, in the name of development of backward areas. Without this Bill, we could have proceeded and, rather, we expected stringent measures against those people. When so many things have been discussed, specially after the test audit, that there was a lower rate of income-tax, an incorrect determintion of house property, an incorrect determintion of business and profession, mistakes in computing depreciation and development rebate, non-levy of additional tax, non-distribution of dividends, all these things, we now find that we are giving more concession to the same houses. We discused all these things and we come to a conclusion that in the name of depreciation and other things how Tatas, Birlas and all these big monopoly houses are cheating the Government and the exchequer. Instead of taking steps to curb them, we are giving more concessions to them. We have not done anything to curb them. Therefore, I say, further concessions on no account should be given to them. All the provisions of the Bill are meant to give more and more concessions to them.

With these words, I oppose the Bill.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE (Betul): Mr. Chairman, Sir, as I rise to support the Bill, I realise I have to be exceedingly cautious in the observations which I make while speaking on the Bill because the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1973 is already being considered by Select Committee of which I have the privilege to be the Chairman.

Of the 21 clauses of this Bill which actually seek to modify and amend various Sections of the Income-tax Act, 1961, the Wealth-tax Act, 1957, the Gift-tax Act, 1958 and the Companies (Profits) Sur-tax Act. 1964, nine Sections are common and overlapping and they are already being considered by the Select Committee as such though the subject-matter is a little different here. Therefore, I have to be cautious and I have to ensure that I I do not state anything which has direct nexus are an indirect

[Shri N.K.P. Salve]

bearing upon what is being deliberated in the Select Committee. I must readily concede that it was necessary to bring this Bill so far as it relates to the difficulties of the Finance Minister to supersede the decision of the Supreme Court in the case of Vegetable Products Ltd. reported in 1973 88 LTR 192. That decision created a very great hardship to the Department and, as pointed out by the Finance Minister, unless the section was amended retrospectively, it was going to cause both administrative difficulties and hardship and also difficulties to the revenues, to the exchequer—large amounts of penalties would become refundable and penalty orders would require to be vacated.

I want to point out to my hon. friend, Shri Panda, that this is not a Bill which is completely exhaustive of the various penalties for recalcitrant and delinquent assessees and for tax-evaders. It is only to supersede a particular decision of the Supreme Court that section 271 (1)(a)(i) is sought to be amended retrospectively.

SHRI D. K. PANDA: That is only one of the provisions. What about the other provisions?

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Other stringent provisions requiring very strong actions, heavier penalties, prosecutions and imprisonment, are already being considered by the Select Committee to which I have referred earlier in which the hon. Member's Party is already contributing a great deal. We are collecting evidence and as soon as we finish deliberating in that, we will be submitting our report to the House. But this is so far section 271(1)(i) is concerned which has an extremely limited purpose of superseding the decision of the Supreme Court which is, as Mr. Chavan pointed out, creating hardship to the exchequer. It is no more and no less.

SHRI D. K. PANDA: You have referred to only one provision. What about the other provisions—exemptinos and concessions?

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: I will come to the other provisions also. I will come to the initial depreciation; I shall explain to you the rationale behind it; I shall also come to the other important provision regarding deductions to be allowed in the backward areas, what are the merits and what are the demerits according to me; I shall try to explain all these things. But here I was only on a limited question because you were very critical of that matter.

But the Finance Minister has not explained one thing which in fairness was due to us—apart from my great personal esteem for the Finance Minister, it is in his regime that I expect termendous and revolutionary improvement in the entire fiscal legislation and fiscal administration and that is why I wish to know as to why this important piece of legislation, these massive amendments, was not brought along with the first Taxation. Bill itself. In fact, in this 'Statement of Objects and Reasons', seven objects, (i) to (vii), have been stated, and excepting object (ii) which relates to supersession of the decision of the Supreme Court, objects (i), (iii), (iv), (v), (vi) and (vii) are entirely covered by the object of the Bill which is now being deliberated before the Select Committee; they all relate to exemptions from taxes and deductions which are covered by the object of the earlier Bill. The main object of the earlier Bill which is being considered by the Select Committee states, *inter alia*, "to rationalise the exemptions and deductions available under the relevant enactments".

My respectful submission is this. Our main law has been riddled with several amendments aggregating to over 900, with the result the law itself is being eroded from a system or order. It is incomprehensible to anybody, to even the most asoteric expert; the best way to deal with the law is to read only when necessary and never think about its logic or rationality and forget as soon as possible It is becoming incomprehensible, with massive amendments coming one after another, and is causing very great hardship. I would, therefore, like to suggest a remedy to the Finance Minister. Once and for all, if he wants to give a stable law to the country which is very necessary—stability is necessary for taxation law both from the point of view of growth and development of the law itself and also from the point of view of curbing evasion and giving any encouragement to tax-evaders and from the point of view of minimising the hardships and difficulties of the tax administration and the assessees—now take a bold step and have one consolidated taxation law, and one code of procedure of taxation law, and work it for five or six years without tinkering with it unduly and unnecessarily?

And this sort of legislation must come after a considerable amount of thinking and after sufficient time being allowed to the draftsmen and not as a result of hasty draftsmanship, careless and worthless draftsmanship. It is that aspect which this particular decision of the Supreme Court has exposed regarding the system of fiscal legislation relating to direct taxation which I want to respectfully point out to the Finance Minister. I wonder whether he knows this, that it has taken twelve years—the law was enacted in 1961 and in January 1973 the Supreme Court decided what exactly is to be the basis of penalty for an assessee who without reasonable cause delays the filing of his return. Sub-section 1 of Sec. 271 of the Income tax Act, 1961 is an extremely important section which directly attacks a contumacious and delinquent assessee who does not file his return, without sufficient reasons, in time. The section prescribed a certain penalty and it took us thirteen years to determine how that penalty is leviable. The Supreme Court came to the conclusion that the way the Act was drafted, the penalty is leviable, not with reference to the entire tax that is payable but it was held that the penalty contemplated under the law is 2 per cent per month of delay and that the penalty of 2 per cent is not on the total tax which is payable on the entire total income but only on the net income which remains payable after deducting any tax paid by the assessee either on self-assessment or provisional assesment. In other words, the effect of the Supreme Court's decision would be that penalty leviable will look ridiculous. I want to bring out the very basic weakness in our system of fiscal legislation and how we err in hastily drafting our tax laws. It was contemplated by the legislature very clearly that assuming that the tax was a lakh of rupees and that there is six months' delay, that is, the delinquent assessee has not filed his return for six months, then the penalty would be 12 per cent of Rs. 1 lakh, i.e. Rs. 12,000. But the Supreme Court says, 'No'. The way you have written your particular section, the penalty would be—in case the tax is Rs. 1 lakh and the self-assessment is Rs. 90,000, then the 12 per cent penalty is only on the balance of Rs. 10,000. That is Rs. 1,200. What an absurd penalty? An absurd proposition. But should it take us 12 years to understand how absurd is the penalty leviable? In this connection, I would like to point out to our respected Finance Minister as to what the Supreme Court has observed, the compliment the Supreme Court has paid to the Parliament for the language used in this section. That is the result of hasty drafting, reckless and thought-

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less drafting and as a result of that this decision came. This is the compliment which has been paid to the Parliament. It does not matter if once a while it happens that the Supreme Court takes a certain view of the matter in which we find that two views are possible and that they have taken one view. If it happens once in ten years, once in five years, I can understand, but every third day we are confronted with these difficulties. It is nothing but the outcome and result of improper and reckless drafting....

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN): May I just point out one thing. This 1961 law which is being commented upon and which was decided by the Supreme Court—did it not pass through a Select Committee? That Bill was also taken through the Select Committee. The fact that it was passed by the Select Committee means the approval of the drafting.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: I do not for a moment say that the Select Committee is a complete guarantee. No one other than good draftsmen can be a complete guarantee. What I am submitting is that the Selection Committee Members are Members of Parliament. The Members of Parliament are not experts in the law of taxation. They are not and can not be experts in drafting.

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Akola): I hope you were not the Chairman in 1961.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: I was not the Chairman then. Even if I were the Chairman, there is no guarantee for the drafting part of it. We can only suggest the language in drafting. And it is for the Minister of State for Law who is sitting here to see that the drafting is correct. Everytime we find that legislation is rushed through without giving sufficient time to the draftsmen to think over the matter. And this is what it comes to. And this is what the Supreme Court observed in a case. This is what they have stated in 88 I.T.R. 1920 page 195 and I quote:

> 'There is no doubt that the acceptance of one or the other interpretations sought to be placed on section 271, (1) (a) (i) by the parties would lead to some inconvenient results, but the duty of the court is to read the section under and its language and give effect to the same. If the language is plain, the fact that the consequence of giving effect to it may lead to some absurd results is not a factor to be taken into account in interpreting a provision. It is for the Legislature to step in and remove the absurdity. On the other hand, if two reasonable constructions of a taxing provision are possible that construction which favours the assessee must be adopted. This is a well-accepted rule of construction recognised by this court in several of its decision. Hence, all that we have to see is, what is the true effect of the language employed in section 271(1)(a)(i). If we find that language to be ambiguous or capable of more meanings than one, then we have to adopt that interpretation which favours the assessee, more particularly so because the provision relates to imposition of penalty.'

The Parliament does not deliberately or wilfully make absurd laws. It never was intended that the assessee should be penalised at 2 per cent for every month of delay with reference to only the balance of the tax payable. He must pay with reference to the entire tax payable. Whose fault is it that Supreme Court comes to declaring? I only want to submit

one thing. The Finance Minister, of course, has gone but, the Minister of State for Finance is here. Even, today if a conscious effort is made to find out whether the drafting of the Bill which has been brought before this House is immaculate and is meticulously done, I should like to know how much time was given for drafting of this Bill. Parliament cannot be expected to be an expert body on drafting of such a complicated law. It is an extremely super-complicated and complex law. Even the best among the experts are not supposed to understand its complexity. It is only the officials and the draftmen who can suggest changes. It is they who can only be blamed if something is wrong in the drafting. If sufficient time is given to them and if our ideas are clear in the matter, then only we should proceed further.

So far as the weaknesses relating to the legislation on direct taxation are concerned, as I submitted, this sort of miserable drafting really leads to complexity. Also it leads to uncertainties. It also leads to evasion. Also it leads to harassment both to the officials and also to the tax-payers. Therefore, I say, this has to be avoided.

I would now like to make a brief reference to two of the important provisions of this Bill. Clause 3 of the Bill contemplates substitution of initial depreciation in place of development rebate from 31st May, 1974. That is what I want Shri Panda to realise. It is a new provision, no doubt, but not for the sake of a few industrialists or a few monopoly houses only. It is meant for all those small and big ones covered by the industries listed in the Ninth Schedule. In fact, it is also my grievance that the way it is enacted shows that no care has been taken to give relief to a small entrepreneur. I do not know what relief the monopoly houses will have, but hardly any relief for a small man. I welcome this measure because this is simpler as compared to development rebate, there are some aspects to which I would like the hon. Minister to give rebate is a simpler provision, supposed to give relief to the assessees by subsidising the installation of plant and machinery, but it has led to massive litigation. Any amount of litigation has arisen because of faulty drafting of the provision relating to some reserves to be created. The despute is still not settled. The law was enacted decades ago, and even today litigation is being fought as to in which year the reserves have to be created. Development rebate would have gone out of the statute-book on 31st May, 1974, but the litigation will continue long thereafter, thanks to the utterly unimaginative drafting bereft of precision I submit that initial depreciation is a welcome provision in principle, because more than anything else, it is utterly simple, but it has some aspects to which I would like the Finance Minister to give very serious thought. Whereas development rebate was available on all plant and machinery, the initial depreciation is available only in selected sectors of industry. In other words, from our economy, we have selected a few industries. I do not know the rationale of the 22 industries listed in the schedule. If one were to go through the Ninth Schedule, one would be surprised; some bureaucrat it seems, sitting in an air-conditioned room or in a room with cooled air has just thought of some industries and put these 22 industries in the schedule. Why have the other industries been excluded?

At any rate, in principle. I want to submit this. Has our country reached a stage of industrialisation where we feel that industries other than these 22 do not need to be encouraged at all anywhere in the country? Have we reached a stage of production where we can withdraw one of the most important fiscal concessions and stimuli by way of development

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rebate and not substitute it for all industries when production and more production is the crying need of the day?

I was listening to the debate yesterday, and whatever may have been the criticism from different sections of the House, one point was utterly clear namely that only production and more production could solve the problem. Is this sort of fiscal stimulus which does not touch even the fringe a small entrepreneurs even going to help growth of production? If it is not going to help it, I should like to ask the hon. Minister the rationale behind enacting a measure in such a way that it is so hopelessly inadequate and so hopelessly insufficient to achieve the laudable objective that he has in mind. Therefore, I submit that the Ninth Schedule in which the list of the industries to which this initial depreciation is confined is given should be scrapped completely, and the initial depreciation should be available to every plant and machinery installed as an outright deduction at 25 per cent.

Among these 22 industries, I would like to know why the hotel industry has been left out. Do Government not want the tourist traffic to grow?

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Chirayinkil): Backward areas also.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: It is a different provision, and I shall come to that presently.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: There are backward areas which are centres of scenic beauty and they require to be developed.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: For instance, the Kovalam beach.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: There are very many other industries that one can think of, I was just noting down here the list of the other industries. For instance, what about industries which are manufacturing agricultural parts and feeding the country all over the place? They have been left out. What about those industries which are manufacturing bricks in the mofussil areas? Are they not important? Do we not need houses? Have we reached a stage in this country when everyone has been provided with shelter? Again, what about electronics industry? Do we not want the development of electronics in this country? Similarly, what about engineering goods. The Finance Minister has said that Government want to encourage industries which have a good export outlook. What about engineering industries in Punjab, UP and elsewhere? How will they be helped hereafter? Therefore, I submit with great respect to the Finance Minister that the bureaucrats are cheating the whole country and the Parliament by enacting this schedule which contains only these 22 industries, which have no basis at all whatsoever.

The Minister of State for Finance is here. Nothing is lost. We only want an assurance from him that he will look into this matter. An amendment to this can be brought. Therefore, to every industry, to every plant and machinery, initial depreciation should be provided; or, at any rate, let the Finance Minister himself have a good look at the Ninth Schedule. Ninth Schedule is the most irrationally drafted Schedule. There is no basis for limiting the relief in this manner. This is so far as initial depreciation is concerned.

Lastly, a word about the backward areas. Backward areas have been enumerated in the Eighth Schedule. It appears therefrom that the list of the districts might have been existing in the archives of the Secretariat

and from that the backward areas have been taken and have been put in the Eight Schedule.

What is the relief given? Twenty per cent of the profits earned for a period of 20 years. Do you think people will take industries to these backward areas whether there is no infra-structure available to them for installation of the industries, there is no adequate water, there is no power, there are no housing facilities, there are no transport arrangements? By this wholly measly, niggardly incentive of 20 per cent, how will you reach your objective? I submit this aspect is very important. Then why are you husling this amendment through? We are actually working through the taxes law for eradication of regional imbalances, disparties in different regions. Will this bring about the slightest eradication of imbalane in the different regions? Would anyone leave Bombay and say, 'All right. Out of a lakh of rupees profits, my twenty thousand will be exempt. So I will go three hundred miles into the deep interior jungle where I will have to spend three times the amount for putting up an industry and three times the amount for finding a saleable market'. Is there any imagination in this kind of enactment that is being made? This needs to be considered very carefully.

One of the suggestions that I make is this. In backward areas, Government are undertaking subsidisation to the extent of 10—15 per cent in cash on their gross block investments, on their capital investments. I submit this is likely to create more difficulties to the Government. Let them scrap this entire subsidisation business. Let them through fiscal incentive draw the industries to this area. I suggest the Minister should consider exempting outright 100 per cent for five years all the profits of industries in the backward areas. Do not give any subsidy. Let them earn profit. Thereby your deficit finance problem will not arise, the problem of the subsidies being mis-utilised will also not arise, and through fiscal legislation, you would have taken a step which will be a substantial step. One is not sure how industrialists would react to this because one has to see and juxtapose all these incentives and correlate them in the context of the element of overall profit.

Therefore, I submit in the two most important matters, that is initial depreciation and profits in backward areas, whereas the objects of the Bill are utterly laudable, looking at the manner in which the legislation is made, it falls extremely short and is utterly inadequate to achieve the objects.

SHRI VIRENDRA AGARWAL (Moradabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we as a nation are passing through the worst and unprecedented economic crisis, and it is amply proved that the Government of the day has lost completely its control over the deteriorating economic situation. I simply ask the Government and its leaders, will this Bill help in improving the situation? Will it help in raising production? Will it check regional imbalances? Will it hold the price line? My own submission is, let the Government leaders ask for themselves what they actually want to achieve. I am entirely in agreement with whatever Mr. Salve has just said about the provisions of the Bill, though they are meant to remove the hardships of the taxpayers, are so halting and inadequate that I have got grave doubts whether they will achieve their objectives.

What is the purpose of taxation? Why do we tax? Of course, taxation is meant, firstly, to raise revenues to meet the twin demands of defence and development; and secondly, to accelerate the pace of growth. But,

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we have seen during the last so many years that while we raise resources in the name of defence and development, we are very fond of squandering our scarce resources on non-plan and unproductive expenditure. Secondly, the fiscal policy which is being pursued today in the country does not accelerate but decelerate the rate of growth. We all know that the fiscal incentives are almost coterminous with production. There cannot be any production unless you provide certain fiscal incentives for prodution.

I would like to quote what Dr. C. D. Deshmukh said in 1956. He said:

"In the last few years, there has been a demand for an increase in the amount of depreciation allowances so as to take into account increased costs of replacement. The Commission have examined this matter in considerable detail and have come to the conclusion that the principle of revalorisation or continuous revaluation of an asset for purposes of depreciation is not merely defective in theory but certainly unworkable in practice. Instead, they have suggested that while the existing system of initial and double depreciation allowances may be retained with certain modifications for all industries, certain other new industries might be given a 'development rebate' equivalent to 25 per cent of the cost of new fixed assets in the year of installation. For certain special industries of national importance, they have suggested a tax holiday for six years. These proposals require further detailed consideration. Meanwhile, I propose to allow a Development rebate of 25 per cent cost of all new plant and machinery installed for business purposes instead of the present initial depreciation allowance of 20 per cent. For purpose of calculating ordinary and double depreciation allowances, this rebate will not be taken into account."

The object of development rebate, was partly to provide funds for replacement at increased costs and partly to serve as an incentive for setting up of new industries. Rehabilitation of old plants is a universal and imperative need. But in 1971, while the Finance Minister presented the Union Budget, fiscal incentives for setting up of new industries, for undertaking expansion, modernisation or replacement of assets, and for engaging in a priority industry were substantially curtailed. The partial tax-holiday for new industrial undertakings was reduced by excluding long term borrowings from the purview of capital employed in calculating the relief. Notice was given for withdrawal of development rebate on machinery or plant installed after 31st May, 1974. The deduction out of income of priority industries was reduced from 8 per cent to 5 per cent. The curtailment of these incentives has adversely affected industrial development, slowed down employment generation and delayed the establishment of industries which is a pre-condition for a self-reliant economy.

In the course of parliamentary debate on the Budget for 1971-72, the Union Finance Minister, Shri Y. B. Chavan, had indicated that Government would consider giving some incentives to industry on selective basis with an emphasis on the development of relatively backward areas and on creating job opportunities.

The present Bill, which of course I welcome, has provided fiscal incentives, and that is why I shall call it a Bill of incentives, to various sections

of the community like foreign technicians, interests on moneys borrowed outside India, awards for technical, scientific or artistic work initial depreciations, replacement of development rebate, expenditure on scientific research, export market development allowance, exemption for non-companies etc.

This new Bill which is a substitute to the development rebate provides initial depreciation allowance at the rate of 20 per cent only to the 22 items specified in the Ninth Schedule. I agree with Mr. Salve that a large number of industries had been left out and unfortunately those which had been left out seem to be so important for industrialisation of India that one wonders whether the Government is really serious about the industrial development in this country or not. If the Government is sincere about accelerating the phase of industrial growth, the Government must ponder seriously and provide such fiscal incentives for industrialsation. It seems to me that there is a consensus that this Bill should be sent to the Select Committee. Why do we say so? Suppose in this Bill there is one item which is mentioned like this: Cotton and jute textiles, but there is a great deal of confusion about one particular item, suppose I want to ask the Government: what about the mixed fabrics, that sort of confusion can be clarified only when a Bill of this nature is sent to the Select Committee. There are so many provisions in this Bill which are likely to create further complications so far as tax assessment is concerned, rather than help in solving the problems. A point has been made that in respect of development rebate the provisions which are incorporated in this Bill are so inadequate that the Finance Minister should reconsider the whole question whether the initial depreciation allowance is adequate enough to accelerate the phase of industrial growth.

I feel that while the Government is so much committed to build the socialist society, it should see to it that the employment oriented industries are developed. These need to be given some special incentive. Additional or weighted deductions could have been provided to employment oriented industries. Similarly in the case of industries in backward areas I think the facilities which are being provided either in terms of subsidy or financial interest are so inadequate that the Government must consider providing additional facilities to those going to the backward areas in terms of raw material, infra-structure like roads, schools, dispensaries, and other basic civil amenities. If we really want that the industries should move into such areas and develop at a fast phase must do this. Similarly, while this Bill lays a great deal of emphasis on the first year or first two years, I do not really know why the rate of 20 per cent and the period of 10 years should not be further extended.

Two points have been constantly made in this House. One is that the rate of savings, which constitutes the crux of the entire process of development, is not going up. What are we doing really to raise the rate of saving? It has been suggested that the exemption limit on dividend incomes should be raised from Rs. 3000 to 5000. I feel this should be done if Government is really interested in accelerating the pace of industrial development. Similarly, while prices are shooting up at the rate of 25 per cent a year, I really do not know why Government is not considering the raising of the tax exemption limit from Rs. 5000 to 10,000. This is always being argued and discussed. While we are considering a Bill of this nature, this very important exemption which needs to be provided to the weaker sections is not being provided. I do not know what sort of socialistic pattern of society this Government is com-

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mitted to build in this country if the weaker sections in whose name we always speak and clamour every day are not taken care of.

If we consider industrialisation to be the key of economic prosperity, Government must provide every possible encouragement to set up new industries in backward areas. Something similar to the development rebate should have been given in the case of new industries. With the increased interest payable on account of borrowings for purchase of the machinery—interest on borrowed capital from nationalised banks is 11 to 12 per cent and on private borrowings is 15 to 18 per cent—Government should provide some special incentives so that the new industries may instal new plant and machinery in backward areas. We must provide for the aggregate allowance on account of depreciation being the actual cost of asset plus the amount of initial depreciation. This will give impetus to the installation of new machinery and plant which is sure to result in increased production and consequent reduction in prices.

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Akola): Sir, at the outset, I would like to state that a Bill of this type has nothing to do with the concept of socialism. My friend was unnecessarily worried about this. The idea of socialism cannot take into its compass the concept of taxation exemption and incentives of this type. Therefore, let us not confuse this with socialism. This is within the framework of a mixed economy, which we have accepted. But when we are talking of the exemption system, I entirely agree with my friend Mr. Salve—I also support many of the contentions made by Mr. Agarwal—that we must go the whole hog and not in a half-hearted manner as is being done in this Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He can continue tomorrow.

18 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, November 14, 1973/Kartika 23, 1895 (Saka).

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